

Kuwait considering French arms deal

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait said Wednesday it was considering signing a preliminary arms purchase agreement with France and would soon hold detailed preparatory talks. Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Sabah, speaking after talks with visiting French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, said he might sign a memorandum of understanding on defence purchase on a forthcoming visit to Paris. He said he and Mr. Leotard had discussed possible arms deals, the security situation in the Gulf and the war in the former Yugoslavia. Mr. Leotard had invited him to visit Paris shortly. Sheikh Ali declined to identify the weapons Kuwait wanted from France. But he told reporters: "We are very happy with any products that France offers us."

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Baghdad sirens sound

BAGHDAD (AP) — Air raid sirens sounded in Baghdad Wednesday night, but the reason for the alert was not immediately clear. The sirens sounded for about two minutes and could be heard in the press centre in the centre of the city. About 20 minutes later, the anti-aircraft alert system sounded in all-clear. Hundreds of residents, hardened by three years of confrontation with the West, went out to see if there were any signs of attack aircraft. Most of the vehicles on the road sped up to get under cover. There was no immediate government reaction or explanation, and state-run television carried on its normal programming.

Kurds flee shelling

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Around 1,250 Kurds have fled intermittent Iranian shelling of areas near Sulaymaniyeh in Iraqi Kurdistan since April, a U.N. source here said Wednesday. The source said the United Nations was trying to rehouse the Kurds in other parts of northern Iraq. The Iraqi Kurds, who control the north in defiance of Baghdad, say the Iranians have been shelling border areas where rebels of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI) have bases.

Mubarak in Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak travelled to the eastern Mediterranean city of Latakia on Wednesday for talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafez Al Assad on the deadlocked Middle East peace process. The meeting came on the eve of a tour by the U.S. State Department's special coordinator for the region, Dennis Ross (see page 10) Syrian presidential spokesman Gibran Kurieh said Mr. Assad and Mr. Mubarak were accompanied by senior aides for the talks.

G-7 ministers split over Iran

TOKYO (AFP) — Group of Seven (G-7) foreign ministers were split Wednesday over whether or not to increase pressure on Iran for violating international law, a senior Japanese foreign ministry official said. "The ministers all agreed that Iran, being an important country in the region, should follow international law," the official said. "But there were two opinions over our possible approach. Some called for sending a strong message, while others said Iran should gradually be encouraged to return to international society." Japanese Foreign Minister abun Muto, whose country recently resumed aid to Iran, told G-7 counterparts that "in view of isolating Iran, we should urge the country to take sensible actions through dialogue."

Iran charity warns tushdie backers

ICOSIA (R) — An Iranian charity which has offered \$2 million for Salman Rushdie's head says Muslims will take revenge on anyone who supports the British novelist or publishes his controversial book "The Satanic Verses." A statement by the June 5 Foundation, printed in Tehran's Jomhuri Eslami newspaper Wednesday, referred to riots over the book last week in Turkey which killed 36 people and said: "Anyone who in any way supports Salman Rushdie or his blasphemous book will face the same fate as he." (Iran bans Turkish writer's works, page 10).

Kurdish guerrillas kill 8 soldiers

KAHRAMANMARAS (AP) — Kurdish guerrillas killed eight soldiers in this southeastern province Wednesday as part of an intensified separatist violence in the area, the Anatolia news agency reported. A government-armed local guard and a Kurdish guerrilla were also killed in the fighting near Ekinozu town, Anatolia added. The attack followed Monday's guerrilla raid on a Turkish village in eastern Turkey that left 33 people dead. The guerrillas raided Basbaglar village in eastern Erzurum province, shooting dead 28 men and torching the village before escaping. The bodies of five other victims still remained under debris, according to Anatolia.

Palestinians offer new suggestions

Combined agency despatches

PALESTINIANS, seeking to revive the Middle East peace process, offered new alternatives on Wednesday to ideas in a U.S. draft paper on self-rule in the occupied territories.

The Palestinians have rejected the three-page U.S. paper, which is intended to bridge differences between them and Israel.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi told Reuters her team was proposing the paper be put aside and that talks resume on Jerusalem and the extent of self-government.

"We are prepared to start talks on these two issues of substance based on the original terms of reference of the process, on international law, or even based on the declared U.S. positions on these issues," she said.

The Palestinians say the document does not define clearly the territory where their self-rule administration would have authority.

They want this to include East Jerusalem as well as the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Ashrawi said Washington had always recognized these three areas as occupied territories and backed U.N. resolutions calling on Israel to trade land for peace.

Palestinians are facing mounting internal opposition to the so far futile 20-month-old peace talks.

Dr. Ashrawi's overture meant Palestinians wanted to reach an

agreement on self-rule and did not want to take any blame for the collapse of the process, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said in Egypt on Tuesday the U.S. document should not be retracted because it could be taken as an opening position for both sides.

"We are not prepared to negotiate Jerusalem and jurisdiction based on the American document nor to make any amendments to it," said Dr. Ashrawi.

"We are saying let's put the document aside and we are prepared to start real negotiations within the framework of the original terms of reference, because as it is, (the paper) can't serve as a basis for the talks," she added.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who left Amman Wednesday, accused Washington of bypassing the terms of reference of the process, launched in October 1991, and of wanting to move the Arabs towards Israel's positions on peace.

Dr. Ashrawi said His Majesty King Hussein and Mr. Arafat agreed East Jerusalem's status as stated in the paper was unacceptable.

"The Jordanian side showed understanding of our position and of our concerns regarding the U.S. document," she said.

Officials close to the meeting said the King asked Mr. Arafat to be flexible in dealing with the document and in restarting the

talks.

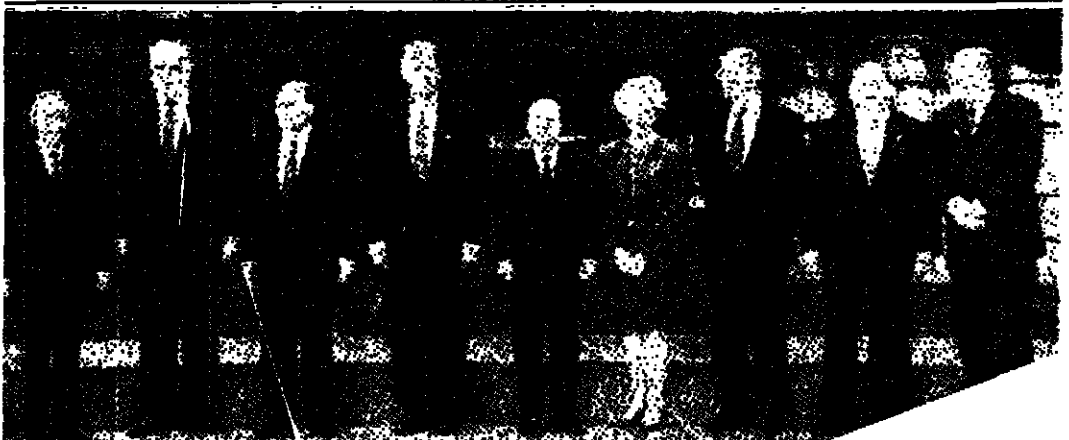
In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, before his departure, Mr. Arafat said his talks with King Hussein were "positive, constructive, brotherly, and practical at the same time." He said these talks included all aspects of joint Jordanian-Palestinian action, including the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

These talks have laid the foundation stone for a new start for both sides at various levels.

On a statement by Mr. Peres that he won the approval of the Egyptians to convince the Palestinians to accept the U.S. draft document, Mr. Arafat said the Palestinian side has sent memoranda to the Arab and European states, the co-sponsors of the peace talks — the U.S. and Russia — Islamic states and the Non-Aligned Movement member states, clearly explaining Palestinian stands on the document, adding it does not constitute a sound basis for the negotiations because it exceeded the terms of reference of the peace process.

Mr. Arafat said the Palestinian position does not mean the Palestinians ought to stop their "dialogue" with the U.S. as a co-sponsor of the talks. "On the contrary, we will continue our attempts with it to explain our point of view," he said.

King Hussein said Tuesday he hoped a U.S. envoy who is planning to visit the Middle East would bring new ideas to reinvigorate the peace process.



Heads of the G-7 delegations during a photo session Wednesday. (Left to right) Italian Prime Minister Carlo Ciampi; German Chancellor Helmut Kohl; French President Francois Mitterrand; U.S. President Bill Clinton; Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa; Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell; British Prime Minister John Major; Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene; EC Economic and Financial Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophersen (AFP photo)

No prospect of forceful G-7 action to end Bosnia conflict

Combined agency despatches

TOKYO — The Group of Seven (G-7) foreign ministers agree that Serbs and Croats should be barred from imposing settlement terms on besieged Muslims to end the war in Bosnia, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Wednesday.

But the ministers backed down from their threats of a year ago to use military force, if necessary, in the embattled former Yugoslav republic.

Mr. Christopher said the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina had worsened since last year's toughly worded declaration. The Serbs seized control of more than 70 per cent of the country while the allies were unable to agree on a course of action.

"The situation is much more difficult to deal with now than would have been last year or two years ago," Mr. Christopher said.

The Clinton administration last spring proposed exempting Bosnia from a U.N. arms embargo and bombing Serb artillery sites, but the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies and Russia declined to back the initiative and it was shelved.

Mr. Christopher, reporting on the ministers' discussion, said the foreign ministers recommended an indefinite extension of economic sanctions against Serbia. "That degree of leverage remains, and it's significant leverage," he said.

He said the ministers supported providing assistance to refugees in Bosnia and opposed permitting the Serbs and Croats, and who have joined forces in

what could be a final drive against the Muslims, to dictate settlement terms.

They also urged Serb President Slobodan Milosevic to abandon his threat to force international monitors to leave the predominantly Albanian enclave of Kosovo.

Mr. Christopher said other decisions taken by the ministers included a call for lifting the Arab economic boycott of Israel and criticism of Iran, Iraq and Libya for their policies.

He said he expected the decisions to be adopted by the leaders of the seven nations before the windup of the summit on Friday. The leaders had a "free-wheeling discussion" of the situation at a dinner Wednesday night and will take up Bosnia and the other foreign policy issues at a meeting on Thursday, White House counselor David Gergen said.

"This discussion was not intended to formulate a Bosnia policy," Mr. Gergen said.

Masamichi Hanabusa, Japanese foreign ministry spokesman, told reporters a good part of the two-hour dinner meeting was devoted to Bosnia.

"If there was any consensus, the consensus would have been that this is a very hard nut to crack," Mr. Hanabusa said.

British Prime Minister John Major, meanwhile, concentrated on Iraq and the threat he said was posed by President Saddam Hussein.

In the nuclear area, the foreign ministers urged Ukraine to ratify the START I treaty to reduce long-range nuclear missile warheads and supported extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation

Treaty when it comes up for renewal in 1995.

The G-7 leaders are expected to endorse an indefinite extension of a key nuclear treaty using watered-down language to meet Japan's wish to preserve its options if North Korea acquires atomic arms, senior U.S. officials said.

The officials conceded that the political communiqué to be issued Thursday would be hedged to take Japan's fears into account.

Their comments suggested that the communiqué reference to the subject will be a step backward from the one issued after the 1992 summit in Munich.

G-7 finance ministers have agreed to assist a programme to privatise Russian business, a senior Japanese finance ministry official said.

"They have come down to specifics on this question and are now discussing the size of assistance," he said.

"They are working on this matter to be able to make an announcement during the summit."

The United States has asked the six other G-7 nations to contribute a pooled \$500 million in grants to a total \$2 billion privatisation programme, half the sum Washington proposed at a G-7 ministers summit in April.

The proposal includes another \$500 million in export credits to enable privatised Russian companies to buy capital equipment on credit and \$1 billion in World Bank loans, now in the pipeline subject to agreeing conditions with Moscow.

King reported in very good condition after irregular heartbeat problem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein was hospitalised Wednesday with an irregular heartbeat, but his condition is very good and reassuring, medical officials said.

King Hussein, 57, who underwent cancer surgery in the United States last year, has already been hospitalised once with the heartbeat problem.

The King's personal physician, Dr. Samir Farraj, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the King underwent the check-up because of an irregular heartbeat.

"King Hussein was admitted

to hospital today for irregular heartbeat," Dr. Farraj said.

He said the Monarch "underwent necessary medical tests and his condition, thank God, is very good and reassuring."

Dr. Qusous, head of the Royal Medical Services at Hussein Medical Centre one of the most sophisticated medical institutions in the Middle East: "His Majesty had the same problem before." He does not suffer from any heart problem, however.

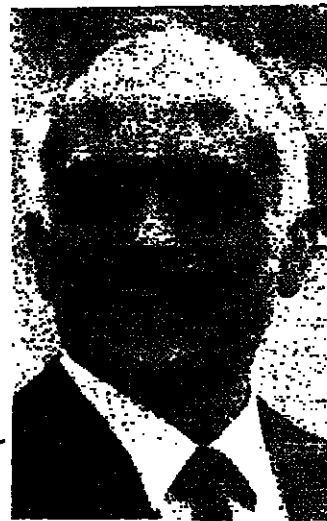
"It is exhaustion, fatigue and worry that has caused the King's illness," Dr. Qusous said. He said the Monarch will be discharged in two days.

The King was hospitalised for the same problem in June 1991.

In January 1992, he had a growth removed from his right leg, and he had a kidney removed last August in the United States after it was found to be cancerous.

Doctors declared him to be in good health last month after a checkup at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

On Sunday, King Hussein said he would soon undergo an operation for a ruptured eardrum in his right ear. The disorder was the result of 40 years at air travel, said the Monarch, who often pilots his own plane.



Co-sponsors hope for progress in talks

MOSCOW (R) — Russia and the United States reported progress in multilateral Middle East peace talks Wednesday but said there could be no breakthrough without the political will of Israel and the Arabs.

Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Edward Djerejian said there were limits to how much Washington could achieve unless Israelis and Arabs showed a genuine desire for peace.

"There's only so much we can do as the honest broker. They have to want peace as well," he told a news conference.

Palestinians and Israelis have held 10 rounds of peace talks over 20 months, but the latest ended last week with still no agreement on principles to guide future Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip (see separate story).

Mr. Djerejian was speaking after the latest meeting of a multilateral steering committee that reviewed the progress of five working groups, all including representatives of Israel and Palestinians.

Mr. Djerejian said the groups, dealing with economic development, water resources, refugees, arms control and environmental issues, were making good progress.

But he said: "All parties recognise that only at bilateral negotiations and through resolution of political issues that divide them can real peace be achieved between Arabs, Israelis and Palestinians."

He added: "The conditions are right for peacemaking and the opportunity is here. The parties themselves must make a real effort ... to narrow the substantive differences between them."

Viktor Posnyayuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department, echoed Mr. Djerejian's view that multilateral talks were no substitute for the slow-moving bilateral peace process in Washington.

Mubarak urges flexibility

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged both Israel and the Palestinians Tuesday to show flexibility to end the deadlock in the peace talks.

Israel Television asked Mr. Mubarak, during his meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Egypt, what he would tell Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat.

"I'll persuade him to hurry up and to continue the negotiations ... as well as we are asking the Israelis for flexibility, I'll tell the Palestinians the same," he replied.

Mr. Mubarak said during the snatched interview, shown on Israel Television, that a U.S. draft paper on Palestinian self-rule presented at the 10th round of peace talks which ended last week was a good basis for continuing negotiations.

Iraq, U.N. resume oil talks; prospects uncertain

Combined agency despatches

UNITED NATIONS — Iraq, which previously spurned a U.N. supervised oil sale, Wednesday resumed U.N. talks to arrange \$1.6 billion in exports to finance humanitarian assistance for its people, hard-hit by U.N. sanctions.

The talks, a sign of good will or desperation by Iraq, come at a time when the Baghdad government and the United Nations are at loggerheads over U.N. efforts to install remote-controlled cameras at two former missile test sites.

The head of the Iraqi delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister Riyadh Al Qaisi, declined to comment to reporters before the talks got under way in the U.N. secretariat building. "I don't want to be presumptuous," he said when asked whether he predicted success, saying he wanted to take stock of the situation before commenting.

Immediately after the opening two-hour meeting Mr. Qaisi described the talks as friendly, cooperative and professional. "I didn't find any difficulty," said Mr. Qaisi, adding he would remain in New York for as long as was necessary.

Further talks are scheduled for Thursday.

Rolf Ekens of Sweden, the chairman of the U.N. special commission overseeing demolition of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, sounded pessimistic Tuesday. He was likely to brief the president of the Security

Council, British Ambassador David Hannay, on Wednesday.

"I don't see any relief in the foreseeable future for the lifting of sanctions," said Mr. Ekens.

In Baghdad, the speaker of the Iraqi parliament, a senior member of the ruling Baath Party, said Iraq would hold out against new U.N. demands unless the United Nations offered it something in return.

Saudi Mehdi Saleh told a packed parliament, called out of recess to debate events since a June 27 U.S. missile attack, that Iraq respected the United Nations and had honoured all commitments under the U.N. resolutions which ended the Gulf war in 1991.

But the Security Council, which has repeatedly renewed trade sanctions against Iraq, had done nothing to alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi people, he said.

"We are in a period of defiance and decisiveness. We are no longer prepared to offer added sacrifices for nothing," he said.

"We shall not permit the United Nations and its committees to take any unfair action against Iraq," he added.

Despite the dispute over the U.N. plan to install monitoring cameras at missile test sites, both sides are keen to agree on a formula for Iraq resuming oil sales.

Iraq has refused to permit the cameras until the United Nations carried out a comprehensive review of Iraq's progress in des-

tructing its weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Saleh tempered his talk of defiance with words to pacify members of parliament, most of whom spoke in favour of caution. "This does not mean that we call for a declaration of a new war," he said.

But he added: "We say to anyone trying to commit aggression against us ... that we will do everything we can to respond."

Member after member of the 250-seat parliament said the government should be prudent in dealing with the United Nations and the U.S. administration, which last month fired 23 cruise missiles at the headquarters of Iraqi intelligence.

"America is trying to drag Iraq into an armed confrontation in order to hit it again," said Deputy Abdul Wahab Al Shama.

"We have to use wisdom and resort to patience and try our best not to be dragged into an armed conflict," added Mr. Shama, who comes from Nineveh constituency in northern Iraq.

An opinion polls published in the official press said about 90 per cent of Iraqis opposed military action in retaliation for the U.S. missile attack.

Later Wednesday the parliament said it wanted to put U.S. President Bill Clinton on trial for the June 27 missile attack on Baghdad that killed eight civilians.

The parliament also said it would seek compensation for victims of the attack on the Iraqi intelligence headquarters.

Daily clashes in Gaza over Palestinian wake

By David Ward Reuter

JABALYA, Occupied Gaza — In death, as in life, Mohammed Al Hindi is part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Even though his body remains in Israeli hands, his wake triggered bloody clashes Wednesday for a fourth consecutive day. Israel calls him a "terrorist," but in Jabalya refugee camp he is a hero.

Israeli troops shot three more Palestinians Wednesday, raising the toll to at least 14 wounded during the wake.

His father, Mohammad Ahmad Hassan Al Hindi, sits quietly in a courtyard waiting for the body of his 22-year-old son. Israeli authorities say they cannot return the badly-burned body until they have proved it is Hindi.

Several hundred Palestinians who gathered to mourn had no doubts it was Hindi and vowed to continue the wake until they got his body.

The man identified as Hindi and another — identified by Palestinians as a man from the occupied West Bank — tried to hijack a bus in Jerusalem on July 1, killing one Israeli and wounding two others.

Thwarted by the bus driver, the Palestinians commandeered a car driven by an Israeli woman. All three died

in a hail of bullets and the explosion of the car at a military roadblock.

Friends and family of Hindi have gathered daily by the house tucked off one of the maze of streets that wind through Jabalya refugee camp, ready to resume clashes.

"The Israeli press calls them terrorists," said a Palestinian who would give only his initials. "But the Israelis kill our brothers, our children. This is why our young men try to avenge their actions."

"We are extremely proud of him," he said of Hindi.

Since the Palestinian uprising against Israel's 1967 occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip began more than five years ago, Israelis have killed 1,105 Palestinians.

The courtyard for the wake was dominated by a two-metre-wide sheet bearing the image of two Palestinians brandishing automatic weapons.

"Kassam Brigade" the military arm of the Muslim fundamentalist organisation Hamas — was written in red Arabic script.

The outlawed Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas is committed to armed struggle against Israel.

Soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinians on Sunday during clashes with stone-throwing mourners.

Abdul Rahman in prison hospital

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, whose alleged followers have been charged with the World Trade Centre bombing, has been interned in a prison hospital here for high blood sugar, his lawyer said.

Michael Warren also said the 55-year-old preacher was having trouble communicating with prison authorities because of a "profoundly deficient" translator.

The blind sheikh surrendered Friday to authorities a day after the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) ordered his arrest for illegal entry to the United States. He is appealing a deportation hearing.

On Sunday, Egypt requested the Sheikh's extradition to face charges at home of organising violent anti-government protests.

"His blood sugar level is higher than normal and he has been put in the prison hospital to get his blood sugar level monitored," said Mr. Warren, who visited the cleric in the prison hospital at the federal correctional institution at Otisville, New York.

The cleric's associates say Sheikh Abdul Rahman requires insulin injections three times a day and also has a heart condition and suffers from asthma.

Mr. Warren said there had been communication problems between Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who speaks Arabic, and the physician assigned to him.

Handwritten signature: Abdul Rahman

Kuwaiti interior minister under fire for rising crime

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Several Kuwaiti deputies on Tuesday blasted Interior Minister Ahmad Al Hamad Al Sabah for a rising crime rate and one deputy suggested that he step down.

"The (interior) minister should present his resignation or else we will resort to our constitutional powers," legislator Shareh Al Ajmi of the fundamentalist Islamic Constitutional Movement told parliament.

He denounced what he called the climate of insecurity in Kuwait, saying that robbery, rape and drug trafficking were on the rise.

"Either he (Sheikh Sabah) doesn't want to do anything about it or cannot do anything about it," Mr. Ajmi said.

Interior Ministry sources have reported an increase in crime in Kuwait but there have been no official statistics since the end of the Gulf war in February 1991.

Democratic Forum leader Ahmad Al Khatib also criticised security along Kuwait's border with Iraq, pointing to the fact that 11 Iraqis infiltrated Kuwait as part of an alleged plot to assassinate former U.S. President George Bush during a visit to the emirate in April.

"They came to assassinate Bush, strolled around Kuwait without being noticed or reported," Mr. Khatib said.

The Iraqis as well as three Kuwaitis are on trial here over

the alleged plot.

MP Ahmad Bager urged the interior minister to deploy security reinforcements, saying that Kuwaitis had lost faith in the country's security set-up.

Of the 22 deputies who spoke in the 50-seat assembly on Tuesday, 21 were highly critical of the minister to seek his resignation.

The minister, a member of the ruling family of Kuwait, listened quietly in the front row, sometimes taking notes, and occasionally smiling.

He did not answer the criticism during the session, which also was attended by Premier and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

But pro-government deputy Talal Al Ayayar said security was the collective responsibility of education, religious preaching and the news media.

Deteriorating internal security has been a major concern since the emirate's liberation in February 1991 from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Reports about rising crime, especially armed robbery and rape, shook Kuwaitis who used take pride in low crime rates before the invasion.

"Robbers are so confident and organised that some of them had eaten cake and watermelon in the house they robbed," said Deputy Fahad Al Azimi.

Interior Ministry efforts to col-

lect weapons left behind by Iraqis and those acquired by Kuwaitis during the occupation have failed. Kuwaitis say they need these guns to protect themselves from any future aggression.

Two deputies said their constituents were thinking of arranging for neighbourhood watches because of lack of police patrols and stations.

In a 14-hour session about security last month, parliament demanded higher security measures and recommended decentralisation of decision-making, admitting more Kuwaitis into the police academy and implementing all sentences handed down by criminal courts.

Almost a month after their recommendations, deputies felt nothing had been done to translate them into "positive steps."

Talal Al Seed urged the minister to ease the strict conditions for admission into the emirate's police academy in order to face the shortage in the police force.

"So what if one of our fine young men is shorter than 1.62 metres?" he asked. "Huge numbers wait at the doors of the academy wanting to be admitted and we leave our border posts manned with two people each."

Many of the stateless Arabs on which the ministry depended on before the invasion to fill its lower ranks were not returned to their jobs.



LIFE CONTINUES: Somalis coming from northern Mogadishu Wednesday cross the "green line" near a checkpoint controlled by Italian soldiers of

the United Nations. Two Somalis employed by the United Nations were killed on their way to work when armed men ambushed their car, a spokesman for the U.N. forces said (see page 10) (AFP photo)

Egypt plans mass trials of 770

CAIRO (Agencies) — The military prosecution is preparing indictments in its biggest two cases against Muslim extremists, involving 770 men accused of plotting assassinations and bombings, a military source said Wednesday.

The suspects will be charged with belonging to an illegal group called "the vanguards of Islam," a revival of the Jihad organisation which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

The military source, who declined to be further identified, said the 770 men were planning a series of attacks in June but were arrested before their offensive got under way. Authorities seized large amounts of weapons and explosives with them.

Some 230 of the suspects were arrested in Cairo and will be grouped in one case, the source said. The rest were detained in other towns and cities and will be tried in a second group.

President Hosni Mubarak started referring Muslim radicals to military courts late last year to ensure their speedy trial.

The military courts have so far sentenced 22 men to death, but only two executions have been performed. At least seven more are expected before the end of the month.

The militants are seeking to turn Egypt into an Islamic state. More than 180 people have died in their violent campaign against the government in the past 18 months. Their main targets were police, Coptic Christians and foreign tourists. But recently the extremists have been blowing up rail-packed bombs in crowded areas, wounding many ordinary Egyptians.

Police arrest 32 Egyptian security forces arrested 32 Muslim militants in raids on villages in Upper Egypt Tuesday, security sources said.

They said a 1,000-strong armoured police force combed a string of villages and houses in the militant town of Dayrut, some 280 kilometres south of Cairo.

Police Brigadier Mahmoud Antar said the militants seized in the operation had been involved in bombings and assassination plots against police officers in Upper Egypt over the past few months.

Earlier on Tuesday, security forces captured two leading militants sentenced to death in their absence in 1989 for attempting to murder two former interior ministers and a journalist in 1986.

Washington rejects Qadhafi's proposal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has rejected an offer by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for the conditional release of two Libyan suspects wanted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988.

Colonel Qadhafi said he would be willing to release the two "for trial anywhere in the world" except the United States and Britain.

He made the proposal to the Rev. Jesse Jackson last month and repeated it in a recent interview with the Washington Times.

"The channel for contact on Pam Am 103 is the U.N. secretary-general," the State Department press officer Sondra McCarty said.

"Qadhafi knows exactly what he must do in order to comply fully with relevant Security Council resolutions. The U.N. Security Council requirements are not open for negotiations."

The United Nations has imposed sanctions on Libya for refusing to turn over the suspects in the December 1988 bombing of the jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

The U.N. resolution specified that the suspects be handed over for trial in the United States or Britain.

In the interview with the Times, Col. Qadhafi predicted the United States will see "a lot more terrorism" and urged President Clinton to tend to domestic problems and stop meddling in foreign affairs.

He said Mr. Clinton blundered in ordering a cruise missile attack on Baghdad. It made him "look

like vice president in a Bush administration," Col. Qadhafi said.

He added that Libya condemns terrorism and stands ready to work with the Western powers to eradicate it.

"Whatever takes place in America — and you will see a lot more terrorism there — is a function of perceived injustices in other parts of the world," Col. Qadhafi said.

"You must understand the power of CNN showing Israeli soldiers shooting Palestinian children. This breeds terrorism in America."

"Don't think Iraq will take the latest cruise missile attack by turning the other cheek," he told the Washington Times last Thursday in his text near Tripoli.

"Acts of terrorism in America will be the answer and they will be more and more violent and spectacular for television purposes around the world," Col. Qadhafi added.

He said a "new era" was possible under Mr. Clinton, whom he described as a "kind, well intentioned man... he does not look down on Third World people as inferior."

Col. Qadhafi, however, advised Mr. Clinton to "resist the temptation to demonstrate that he is decisive by bombing other countries."

"Clinton should concentrate all his energy on America and stop meddling in matters that are of no concern of Americans — such as Bosnia, which is strictly a European problem."

Israel public sector on strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — More than 50,000 Israeli civil servants went on strike Wednesday, leaving Israel unable to get marriage licenses or divorce decrees, register births or open businesses — or even watch "Seinfeld."

The silver lining was that bankruptcies and income tax foreclosures were held off, too.

Four unions struck, demanding 35 per cent wage increases spread over three to four years. Their aim was to raise salaries to a minimum of 2,000 shekels (\$715) per month, according to Uri Tzacher, spokesman for the Histadrut national trade federation.

He said the unions set no time limit on the strike, which shut down ports, employment services, some hospital services, the income tax department, the national insurance institute, educational television and the public service administration, and all ministries except the defence ministry.

The strike came after months of negotiations with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who

told Israel Radio the demands were too much for the treasury to handle and would only end by driving up unemployment.

Israel's unemployment rate, aggravated by an influx of 400,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union, stands at 11 per cent.

An emergency cabinet session authorised measures to force up to 15 per cent of striking workers back to jobs deemed vital to national security and the public good, Israel radio said.

The strike mainly affected administrative workers, Mr. Tzacher said. That meant laboratory tests in the hospitals were not conducted, but medical care was not seriously affected.

It also meant that "Seinfeld," a summer holiday park broadcast by the normally scholarly educational television authority, would be off the air.

Even though licenses were unavailable, couples would not be able to marry anyway. A religious ban prevents Jewish weddings from July 7 to 27.

Kuwait 'bought' support for liberation

LONDON (R) — Former Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) officials have alleged that \$300 million missing from the KIO's Spanish operation was used to buy Western and Arab political backing to free Kuwait after Iraq invaded in 1990, the Financial Times newspaper reported Wednesday.

It also said large sums were alleged to have been used to buy votes at the United Nations where crucial Security Council votes later provided the legal basis for Kuwait's liberation by a multinational force.

But Kuwaiti Member of Parliament Nasser Al Sane told Reuters that Kuwait officials had ruled out the possibility of such payments to the alleged first surfaced earlier this year.

"They (the Kuwaiti officials) said any such political payments would have to have been

approved by the council of ministers (cabinet) and no such approval was given," Mr. Sane said in a telephone interview in Kuwait.

He was one of several members of the assembly's finance and economic committee who visited London earlier this year to probe allegations of misconduct in the management of the emirate's overseas investment empire.

The committee was told unofficially that some of the missing money had been used for political purposes but the allegation was vague and the purposes were not specified, Mr. Sane said. On returning to Kuwait, the committee told a number of officials about the allegation. The officials dismissed the allegations as false, he added.

The KIO is suing 22 former executives and advisers in Lon-

don for alleged conspiracy to defraud and other malpractice in connection with Spanish investments.

Grupo Torras, KIO's Spanish holding company, went into receivership last December.

Former KIO managers, some of whom are accused by the emirate of stealing between \$300 million and \$510 million, have persistently alleged that the missing funds were used, on the instruction of exiled Kuwait leaders, to influence foreign political opinion.

France was specifically mentioned as a target of the campaign as well as Tunisia and Morocco, the newspaper said.

Both the Kuwaiti government and the current management of the KIO deny the existence of any such fund to influence political opinion.

U.N. mediators visit Cyprus next week

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Two U.N. envoys will go to Cyprus next Tuesday following the unexpected resignation of Turkish-Cypriot leader Rafi Denktaş as leader of his community's delegation in the ongoing talks.

Diplomats said that Joe Clark of Canada, the U.N. special envoy for Cyprus, and his deputy, Gustav Feissel, would visit Cyprus as well as Greece and Turkey in an effort to generate support for a U.N. package of "confidence-building measures."

Mr. Denktaş, who underwent a heart operation in a U.S. hospital, said he had been hampered by his own government, set up nine years after the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus and recognised by Ankara only.

Mr. Denktaş told reporters in Nicosia that he could not continue as a negotiator in talks about the future of the divided island while his prime minister, Nicos Demizoglou, refused to make any concessions to Greek Cypriots.

Foreign minister, Alexander Sachalides, said Mr. Demizoglou's decision to resign would end the talks.

The United Nations for years has been trying to reunite the island under federal rule. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali thought he was close to getting

measures approved that would start an economic and political rapprochement between the two communities.

He criticised Mr. Denktaş in a weekend report, saying the Turkish Cypriot leader had promised support for the 15 measures at a June 1 U.N. meeting and then returned to Nicosia and Cyprus and spoke against them.

The two key measures involve placing part of the uninhabited resort town of Varosha, formerly dominated by Greek Cypriots, under U.N. administration and reopening Nicosia airport, also under U.N. control.

The Security Council, however, chose to ignore Mr. De-

nktaş's resignation from the talks with some envoys saying that early elections in northern Cyprus might clarify his position.

A council letter to Dr. Ghali, drafted on Wednesday, emphasised the "obligation of both parties to cooperate fully and without further delay," in reaching an agreement on the Cyprus problem and on proposals related to Varosha and Nicosia airport.

The letter repeated the main points of Dr. Ghali's report and said it shared his "deep disappointment" that Mr. Denktaş had not supported the package and did not return to New York for scheduled meetings on June 14.



JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

12:00-12:15 P.M. Pi of Hercules
12:15-12:30 P.M. Supertash
12:30-12:45 P.M. L'ecole des fans
12:45-1:00 P.M. News in French
1:00-1:15 P.M. Fusion
1:15-1:30 P.M. News in Hebrew
1:30-1:45 P.M. News in Arabic
1:45-2:00 P.M. Too Close for Comfort
2:00-2:15 P.M. Quantum Leap
2:15-2:30 P.M. News in English
2:30-2:45 P.M. Feature film "In Broad Daylight"

PRAYER TIMES

03:25 Fajr
05:07 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:00 Noon
12:00 Asr
18:30 Maghrib
19:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresse Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623841
Anglican Church Tel. 623883, Tel. 638536
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 655226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824 and 654922
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to fresh and seas calm.

Amman 18 / 32
Aqaba 26 / 39

DEPARTS

16:34 Jordan Valley 24 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMBULANCE: 885880
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 847351
Dr. Jamal Jbara 847351
Dr. Riza Abu Zeina 751144
Dr. Yousef Nasr 751144
First pharmacy 661912
Fedora pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637055
Al Asana pharmacy 637072
Shameen pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

NIGHT DUTY

ABMAM: 644940
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority Department 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 871228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Complaints Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010290
Post Office 642101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664171/4
Shamsi Maternity 669133
Italian, Al-Muhajir 776110/5
Al-Muhsin Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666177/7
Al-Anli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajir 776110/5
Al-Bashir, J. Abdali 776110/5
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)901591
University Hospital 848945
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990909
IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Amman (RJ)
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24:00 Amman (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trial of Muslim militant to start in Yemen

ADEN, Yemen (R) — The trial of a Muslim militant leader and 42 other men charged with attempted assassination and bombings will start in Yemen next week, a judicial official said Wednesday. Ali Al Mohsen, public prosecutor of Aden province, told reporters all measures to hold the trial were completed and all documents handed to the court. He said the trial would start in Aden next week of the 42 suspects and three parliamentarians who had surrendered to three parliamentarians in January. Only Mr. Fadhli and two other suspects are in custody. The Interior Ministry says Mr. Fadhli is suspected involvement in an assassination attempt on a Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) leader and bombings in two hotels in Aden in December last year. Mr. Mohsen said Mr. Fadhli, who belongs to a family that ruled Aden under British protection until the independence of South Yemen in 1967, was charged with terrorism activity with the aim to commit a crime and taking part in setting up a terrorist group to operate inside and outside Yemen. Two militants were arrested for the attempted assassination of Mr. Salah Ubad Mugbel, head of the YSP branch in Aden. Mr. Mugbel and a bodyguard were wounded in the attack.

Mubarak to change government after poll

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak says a new government will be formed after elections in October expected to give him a third six-year term in office. Cairo newspapers said Wednesday. "It is normal to have a cabinet change after the election of a new president, when the current government submits its resignation. There will be a cabinet change," the papers quoted Mr. Mubarak as telling new officers in Alexandria on Tuesday. The government headed by Ataf Sedki was formed in 1986 and has remained in place with only minor reshuffles. Mr. Mubarak said he would choose a vice-president when he finds the "appropriate person" for the job. Mr. Mubarak was vice president under Anwar Sadat and automatically became president when Mr. Sadat was assassinated in 1981. He has never appointed his own vice-president. Parliament meets later this month to nominate candidates for president and is almost certain to choose Mr. Mubarak. Only one other person has put himself forward, a little-known Alexandria businessman whose chances have been dismissed by officials.

Thai policeman charged in Saudi gems case

BANGKOK (AFP) — A Thai police lieutenant general and seven others, all but one of them policemen, were charged Wednesday in connection with a notorious 1989 case involving the theft of jewelry from Saudi Arabia, a court official said. The case involved the theft of \$20 million in jewelry from a member of the Saudi royal family in Riyadh by a Thai domestic worker. The worker returned to Thailand with his haul and was later arrested and jailed but much of the jewelry subsequently returned to the Saudi prince was fake. Lieutenant General Chalor Kerdthong, a former commissioner attached to the Bangkok police department, was charged on eight counts, including embezzlement and failing to perform duty, the official said. The other seven were all charged on similar counts. Mr. Chalor and the other suspects were released after posting bail of 300,000 baht (\$12,000) each, the court official said. The jewelry case and the 1989-90 murders in Bangkok of four Saudi diplomats and a Saudi businessman soured relations between the two countries and led to a 1990 ban by Riyadh on visas for Thai nationals. Thai-Saudi relations warmed this year when Thailand formally blamed the murders on international terrorists and promised to speed up the investigation of the jewelry case.

Oman, Yemen to work on implementing pact

SANAA (R) — Oman and Yemen are holding talks to speed up implementation of a border accord that settled their 25-year-old territorial dispute, a senior Omani official said. "The two sides will work to speed up the implementation of the accord," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah told reporters arriving at Sanaa on Tuesday night. Mr. Ben Abdullah will be holding talks on the accord and relations between the two neighbours during his visit to Yemen. Oman said in May that it opened its first border crossing to Yemen in 25 years. The two countries earlier agreed to build a road link and construct an Omani city at the border to facilitate the transfer of people and goods.

Two British tourists missing in Turkey

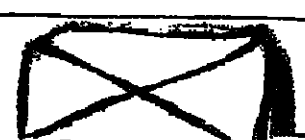
TATVAN, Turkey (R) — Two British tourists, a man and a woman, have gone missing in eastern Turkey where Kurdish separatists are fighting the government, officials said Tuesday. The couple, both aged 28, left King Hotel and Camping near the town of Tatvan, about 120 kilometres east of Ankara, on Sunday to climb Mount Nemrut and reach a crater lake, camp commander Nergiz Turgut said. He named the tourists as David Michael Rowbottom and Tania Jan Miller, who also has an Australian passport. He said security forces had launched a search for the couple.

Car-bomb targets Iraq journalists' union

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A car-bomb exploded outside the offices of the journalists' union in the southern city of Basra Monday, shattering windows but causing no casualties, the Babel newspaper reported Wednesday. The attack was carried out by "agents of a foreign power" to punish the union for a meeting June in between its officials and President Saddam Hussein, said the paper, which is edited by the Iraqi leader's son Uday.

Hizbollah says 2 fighters killed in clash

BEIRUT (R) — The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) said Wednesday two of its guerrillas were killed in a clash with Israeli troops earlier this week. The Islamic Resistance, Hizbollah's military wing, said in a statement the two were killed during a series of attacks on Israeli and allied militia forces inside the Jewish state's self-proclaimed "security zone" Monday. Hizbollah sources said they were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol in Sojoud area north of the 15 kilometres deep buffer enclave in which an Israeli soldier was wounded. Two civilians were killed in Israeli shelling on a cluster of Hizbollah-controlled villages after the attack.



Jordan remembers the late King Talal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited the tomb of the late King Talal Ibn Abdullah on the anniversary of his death where he laid a wreath and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

Also visiting the tomb were members of the Royal Family, the prime minister, Cabinet members, the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament members, the chief Islamic justice, senior officials and high ranking army officers.

King Talal was the eldest son of the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

"Born in Mecca in 1909, the late King received military training at Sandhurst Military College in the United Kingdom and was the first Jordanian army officer to graduate from the college in 1939.

King Talal assumed his responsibility as King of Jordan on Sept. 6, 1951, and began to work towards achieving the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt which was led by his grandfather Sharif Hussein Ibn



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visits the late King Talal Ibn Abdullah's tomb where he recites verses from the Holy Koran (Petra photo)

All of Hijaz. King Talal started his rule by introducing reforms to the Jordanian Constitution but illness prevented him from pursuing his work. He abdicated on Aug. 11, 1952 and His Majesty King Hussein acceded to the throne.

The late King is remembered for his efforts to develop the Jordanian Armed Forces and was instrumental in creat-

ing the national guard, a force that was used to defend the homeland against repeated Israeli aggressions.

Under his reign, the nucleus of the Jordanian Royal Air Force was also created.

King Talal took part in the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 as an army officer fighting alongside the Jordanian armed forces in defence of the Arab land of Palestine.

Abu Nowar expects moves towards Arab reconciliation, promises measures to rectify media 'imbalances'

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is pursuing efforts to heal rifts among Arab countries, and the near future will witness concrete steps towards achieving Arab solidarity, information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar said Tuesday.

In a lecture at the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Tuesday evening, Dr. Abu Nowar said Jordan will pursue these efforts in line with policies charted by His Majesty King Hussein and in conformity with the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt.

In his lecture, which revolved around Jordanian democracy and its impact on the countries of the region, the minister said that the present government is determined to prevent any media offence against other Arab states.

Stressing that the Jordanian press will maintain its freedom, the minister also emphasised that

he would introduce measures aimed at reforming or putting right any imbalance or errors in the national press through the Jordan Press Association, direct contacts with the concerned newspapers or through the law.

Dr. Abu Nowar said that he was preparing a national information strategy for Jordan that would serve as a reference for media people and researchers.

Referring to Parliament, the minister voiced his support for deputies' participation in government because this practice tends to "enhance democracy."

Dr. Abu Nowar, however, cautioned against deputies' exploiting their ministerial posts for election or political parties purposes, saying that the "nation's higher interests should be above any other consideration."

The minister expressed his sup-

port for the one-person-one-vote system, calling for allocating only one deputy for each constituency. He said such a system should help achieve justice and equality.

Saying that the government has not yet discussed the Election Law, the minister pointed out that the present law was prepared in 1928 by the British colonial government and was formulated in a manner that would safeguard the minorities and various groups.

He said that any amendment to the present law should be preceded by consultations among all concerned groups.

Saying that democracy in Jordan "matched any other around the world," the minister listed the following eight principles as the basis for democracy in Jordan:

Freedom for all under the umbrella of the law.

— Independent legislative, executive and judicial authorities.

— The right of Parliament to vote down a government.

— Complete independence for judiciary.

— Political pluralism in the sense that no single party should monopolise power in the country.

— Human rights should be safeguarded in conformity with the Constitution.

— Free local and municipal government.

The minister said that Israel is the first enemy of the Jordanian democracy because the Jewish state had sought to present itself as the only democracy in the region in order to achieve its own interests.

Other enemies, he said, include factions on the internal front who exploit democracy as a tool to undermine its noble aims.

Dr. Ma'an Abu Nowar

— Parliamentary democracy, with the people considered the source of all powers and authorities.

Crown Prince visits Jordan pavillion at Coventry fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who is currently on a visit to the United Kingdom, Wednesday, visited the Royal Agricultural Fair held in Coventry, Yorkshire, in which Jordan is participating for the first time since it was launched 150 years ago.

Prince Hassan met at the fair with the Duke of Wellington, the honorary vice-president of the British Royal Agricultural Society, who welcomed Jordan's participation in the fair and described it as distinguished, compared to other countries participating in the annual event.

Prince Hassan called for boosting cooperation between the British Royal Agricultural Society and the concerned institutions in Jordan, stressing that such events

help build strong bridges of friendship and cooperation among the participants, who represent the agricultural and the agricultural processing sectors from many countries.

Prince Hassan toured various parts of the Jordanian pavillion. He also met with members of the Jordanian delegation representing the public and private sectors in the fair and commended their efforts in bringing Jordan's first participation to a successful end.

He voiced hope that this participation will be the advent of preparing for a permanent agricultural fair in Jordan.

The executive president of the Royal Society for Organised Agricultural Ownership hosted a luncheon in honour of Prince Hassan.

Majali to open financial control seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali will Sunday open a seminar on financial and administrative control to be held at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) in Amman.

Secretary generals of various government ministries and a group of prominent government officials will attend the seminar, which will tackle a variety of topics concerning management of government offices and the work of the Audit Bureau.

Several working papers will be reviewed at the three-day seminar, which is also expected to draw up new plans for the newly created Inspection and Control Bureau.

The meeting will discuss the Egyptian experiment in controlling financial and administrative work of government departments.

Participants are also expected to discuss the Jordanian experiment in appraising the performance of public administration work with a view to introducing steps aimed at improving performance and achieving reforms.

Meanwhile, Dr. Majali Tuesday presided over a cabinet meeting which decided that Jordan should take part in the World Health Organisation's (WHO) regional meeting to open in Alexandria in November. Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas will lead the Jordanian delegation to the meeting.

The Council of Ministers also decided to send a Jordanian technical team to the European Investment Bank to discuss prospects for assistance to the Kingdom to carry out water and waste treatment schemes. The team will be visiting the bank's headquarters in Luxembourg between July 11 and 16, said a cabinet statement.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday distributes certificates to graduates from NHF weaving project in Iraq Al Amir (Petra photo)

Queen Noor opens NHF project in Iraq Al Amir

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday inaugurated the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHF) new cloth weaving project in Iraq Al Amir, 19 km. to the southwest of Amman, and attended the graduation of its first batch of female trainees.

The project, launched by NHF's Jordan Design and Trade Centre in February 1993, is a pioneering project for the commercial production of hand-woven cloth in Jordan on a cottage-industry basis.

Queen Noor also visited the project's centre and was briefed by its supervisor on its progress. Later, she toured the old village of Iraq Al Amir en route to Wadi Seer where she visited Wadi Seer's Women Society. The Queen commended the society's contributions to the cloth-weaving project.

Situated in the Wadi Al Seer district, Iraq Al Amir was selected for the project mainly due to its deteriorating socio-economic conditions. With a population of 2,500, mostly working in subsistence agriculture, the village faces a high rate of unemployment and emigration to neighbouring villages. The project

aims at improving the community's standard of living by increasing their income, revitalising the village's tourism value in light of its significance as an archaeological site and introducing other handicrafts to the area such as ceramics, glass works and rug-making.

With a Chinese government donation of ten looms, raw materials and the services of a weaving expert, NHF's cloth-weaving project seeks to produce hand-woven and hand-dyed cloth (cotton, poly-cotton and linen) similar to that which was historically produced in the region, thus preserving an important aspect of Jordan's cultural heritage. It is hoped that the cloth materials produced by the centre will be used to produce home furnishings such as upholstery, curtains and embroideries which will eventually lessen Jordan's dependence on imported textiles.

Wednesday's graduation marks the culmination of a two-phased training programme. The first phase started by training 10 young women, of whom two were selected as supervisors. The second phase included the renovation of two village houses to serve as the weaving centre's headquarters. Twelve trainees

are currently working for the project, seven of whom received their certificates from Queen Noor at Wednesday's ceremony. Five other workers are undergoing training.

Queen Noor was accompanied by Minister of Social Development Mohammad Squir, Amman, governor Mohammad Al Bashir member of the Upper House of Parliament Liela Sharaf and the NHF president Iram Al Muffi.

Like other development projects implemented by NHF, the Iraq Al Amir cloth weaving centre is based on an integrated development approach aiming at enhancing the overall quality of life in the village. In this regard, the NHF Quality of Life Project provided sprayers to curb insect infestation in the area. It is also planning other projects to improve the socio-economic and health conditions in the village. A scheme to renovate old houses is already underway with the aim of attracting villagers back into the old village site.

In the long-run, NHF hopes to expand the project and develop it into a cottage industry in Iraq Al Amir itself and in the nearby villages.

New Arabic-language daily licensed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A new Arabic language political daily has been licensed by the government and the new publication is expected to hit the newsstands in early September.

The daily, which will be the fourth Arabic language daily in Jordan, will be titled "Al Mithaq" and will devote a good part of its coverage to business and economy-oriented news, said Mustafa Abu Libdeh, its chief editor.

It will join Al Ra'i, the largest circulation Arabic language daily in the Kingdom, Al Dustour and Sawt Al Shaab.

Mr. Abu Libdeh, a veteran Jordanian journalist who worked with Kuwait's Al Siyasseh until 1986 when he was expelled along with a group of foreign journalists from the emirate, expressed conviction that there is enough room for "Al Mithaq" among Jordanian readers.

"We have conducted a feasibility study and it established that a good focus on business and economy could provide us with enough readership and advertising," Mr. Abu Libdeh told the Jordan Times.

"Any paper which carries nothing but heavy political stuff and not enough coverage of economic and business developments does not stand a chance in the market," he asserted.

"Al Mithaq will have a balanced combination of political, economic, social, cultural and sports coverage along with other issues of concern to the readers," he said.

"Al Mithaq is not affiliated to any political group," he added. Mr. Abu Libdeh, 50, who served as managing editor of

Sawt Al Shaab and later was a contributor to Al Dustour, has been running a business weekly, Al Aswaq, since March 1992.

Al Aswaq was devoted to covering issues of immediate interest to the consumer — food, clothing, cosmetics etc. — as well as banking, insurance, transport, travel, the stock market, industry etc.

The Al Aswaq license, issued under the 1973 Press and Publications Law which was replaced by a new legislation in May this year, classified the weekly as a business and trade weekly and limited its coverage to strictly business and economic issues.

No political coverage was allowed for Al Aswaq, which used to come out with 16 tabloid size sheets devoted to specific issues and areas every week.

"We closely observed the market and readership with Al Aswaq and now we believe that Al Aswaq managed to reach its intended target audience — the business community and decision-makers," said Mr. Abu Libdeh.

Technically, the license, which was approved by the Council of Ministers Tuesday, permits Al Aswaq to change itself to a daily, and Media Investments Company, which owns the license, has decided to change the name to Al Mithaq, he said.

Media Investments Company, a JD 1 million capital/private limited firm owned by 22 individuals, will be applying for a new license for Al Aswaq to continue as a weekly, Mr. Abu Libdeh said.

Initially, Al Mithaq, which will use Sawt Al Shaab printing facilities, will come out with 24 pages. It will employ about 100 people, Mr. Abu Libdeh said.

Minister blames 'insufficient' health services on administrative procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Wednesday blamed what he called "primitive and traditional systems" in the purchase and distribution of drugs as the main cause for insufficient health services at public hospitals and health centres.

"The present systems which were invented in 1920 are still in force and the Health Ministry's warehouses are in disarray," said the minister in reply to a question about recurring public complaints about alleged inefficient public sector health and medical services.

The agency quoted numerous and repeated complaints by members of the public claiming that, more often than not, people do not get the required and prescribed medicine from the government's drug stores. Some patients had complained that the government — employed specialists had failed to give the correct diagnosis, prompting the patients to resort to private sector hospitals.

Health officials at Health centres refused to cooperate or to give specific answers about shortages of medicines.

Some officials attributed the shortages to the insufficient number of specialists and the constant shortage of medicine and essential medical equipment.

The Health Minister said that the government hospitals and health centres are not the only party to be blamed for the situation. The patients themselves and the society at large shares part of the blame as well, he said.

"It is natural that with some shortages at the health centres, the health workers cannot cope, especially if their offices are continually flooded with patients, no matter how hard they try," said Dr. Malhas.

But, he said, some patients seek to get more drugs than they really need and they distribute some of them to their relatives.

"Doctors are also contributing to this problem because physicians are part of this society which still suffers from cultural problems," added Dr. Malhas.

The minister said that the Health Ministry was preparing a national health scheme covering all members of society.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas

Wednesday blamed what he called "primitive and traditional systems" in the purchase and distribution of drugs as the main cause for insufficient health services at public hospitals and health centres.

"The present systems which were invented in 1920 are still in force and the Health Ministry's warehouses are in disarray," said the minister in reply to a question about recurring public complaints about alleged inefficient public sector health and medical services.

The agency quoted numerous and repeated complaints by members of the public claiming that, more often than not, people do not get the required and prescribed medicine from the government's drug stores. Some patients had complained that the government — employed specialists had failed to give the correct diagnosis, prompting the patients to resort to private sector hospitals.

Health officials at Health centres refused to cooperate or to give specific answers about shortages of medicines.

Some officials attributed the shortages to the insufficient number of specialists and the constant shortage of medicine and essential medical equipment.

The Health Minister said that the government hospitals and health centres are not the only party to be blamed for the situation. The patients themselves and the society at large shares part of the blame as well, he said.

"It is natural that with some shortages at the health centres, the health workers cannot cope, especially if their offices are continually flooded with patients, no matter how hard they try," said Dr. Malhas.

But, he said, some patients seek to get more drugs than they really need and they distribute some of them to their relatives.

"Doctors are also contributing to this problem because physicians are part of this society which still suffers from cultural problems," added Dr. Malhas.

The minister said that the Health Ministry was preparing a national health scheme covering all members of society.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

EC-delegation ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Manuel Martin, vice president of the European Commission and commissioner for development cooperation, and the accompanying delegation Wednesday left Amman after a several-day visit to Jordan during which they were received by His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other senior officials. The talks centred on means of enhancing relations between Jordan and the European Community (EC) in various fields of cooperation. The talks also dealt with developments in the Middle East peace process at the bilateral and multilateral levels and the role of the EC in pushing the process forward. Mr. Martin commended Jordan's democratisation process and the performance of Jordanian government departments in charge of allocating and distributing European assistance to Jordan since 1977. The EC has extended to Jordan \$250,000 in the form of soft loans and grants. The EC officials were seen off at the airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Satahan Al Hassan and senior Jordanian and EC officials.

Industry chamber to study effects of increased taxes

AMMAN (J.T.) — President of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalid Abu Hassan Wednesday said the chamber was about to conduct studies on the repercussions of any expansion in the imposition of the consumers' tax and raising electricity rates. At a meeting of the chamber's board, Mr. Abu Hassan urged industrialists to supply the chamber with documented information on the effects of any hikes in electricity rates or the introduction of new taxes on their industries. He said the chamber will closely monitor economic developments with the objective of ensuring a real growth of productive sectors of society, namely the industrial sector.

Cigarettes smugglers arrested

IRBID (Petra) — Customs officers in the Irbid region Wednesday foiled a smuggling attempt and arrested the smugglers who are being referred to court for trial. The smugglers were trying to smuggle into the country 400 cartons of various types of foreign-made cigarettes.

Hadid, Arafat, discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) President Mohammad Hadid Wednesday held talks with visiting director of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society Fathi Arafat and reviewed with him cooperation between the two societies. Dr. Hadid said later he informed Dr. Arafat that his office was willing to extend support to humanitarian projects implemented by the Palestinian society.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian plastic artist Marwan Al Allan at the Jordanian Writers Association.
- ★ Paintings by Salem Al Dabbagh, Hina Al Ali and Karim Rasan, at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-8 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshbedia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by plastic artist Abeer Al Khatib at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Noelle Shawwa at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture on the 1993 excavations season at Tell Nimrin, Southern Samarra, by Dr. James Flanagan of Case Western University and Dr. David McCrery of Willamette University at the Friends of Archaeology Centre at 7 p.m.

Islamic leader urges liberal understanding

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — A liberal Islamic leader Tuesday accused Islamic political parties in Jordan of rigidity and urged them to adopt a more liberal and modern understanding of Islam.

"Islam is not a rigid religion and we should use reason to explain it to the world," Mr. Yousef Abu Baker, leader of the Islamic Arab Nationalist Movement Party said, in a lecture organised by the professionals unions association in Irbid Tuesday.

Mr. Abu Baker said his party, which was established in 1990, believes that Islam should not be blindly followed and warned against following the preaching of fundamentalists who misunderstand Islam.

His remarks drew accusation of atheism from some members at the audience.

Mr. Abu Baker said even though there are common principles between his party and other Islamic groups, his party's stand on Arab nationalism and support of the Middle East peace process caused rift between them.

Other Islamic groups in Jordan oppose the Arab-Israeli peace talks and have "a vague stand on Arab nationalism," Mr. Abu Baker said. He said Islam and Arab nationalism are the "two faces of the same coin."

Adding that Islam has given a new dimension to the history of the Arabs, "Islam," he added, "is the motivation for Arabs to work hard and raise themselves from the ashes."

Mr. Abu Baker, said Islam had stressed the importance of democ-

cracy. "Multi party system, the role of people, equality between all citizens, justice and the right of the people to question their rulers are the main components of Islamic democracy," he said.

Islam, according to Mr. Abu Baker, does not contradict the Western style of democracy but complements it with Shura.

Mr. Abu Baker said that along with the prevailing judiciary, executive and legislative powers, his party believes in creating a "people's parliament" which would have the right to oversee the work of the house of representatives.

Claiming that Islam's economic principles provide the cure for recession and unemployment, Mr. Abu Baker said Islam guarantees private ownership of the means of production, economic liberty, just distribution of

wealth.

He urged economic unity among the countries of Fertile Crescent — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Palestine — and technological cooperation with the Asian countries, and the collection of Zakat and alms as major steps to improve regions economic situation. He added that "poverty was the natural outcome of the misuse and maldistribution of wealth among people."

Mr. Abu Baker, whose party includes Christians among its members, said Islam and Christianity share important elements that make them very close. He urged Muslims to believe in the Christian roots of Islam.

"Arab Christians are part and parcel of our society and have the same historical and cultural identity," he said.

Community college students demand access to universities

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing community colleges in Jordan Wednesday demanded that college graduates be allowed to pursue their higher studies in Jordanian universities.

The delegation, which made the demand to Ministry of Education and Higher Education Khaled Omari, also demanded that community colleges be allowed to form an association to coordinate cultural and educational matters among the colleges on the one hand and between

them and the Ministry of Higher Education on the other.

Welcoming the idea, the minister said such an association, if established, should be dedicated solely to promote the educational and cultural objectives in Jordan.

In discussing the work of community colleges, the minister said that most of them are concentrated in Amman and other big cities, thus contradicting the educational philosophy of Jordan which aims at spreading higher education in all areas of the country.

The ministry of Higher Education is going ahead with studies to create community colleges specialising in education and awarding bachelor degrees to their graduates, said Dr. Omari. He said, these colleges would be set up in the north, central and southern regions and would involve the private as well as the public sectors.

These plans will be subject for approval by the Higher Council of Education which will also discuss the question of allowing community college graduates to

pursue their higher studies at Jordanian universities, added the minister.

At the meeting, Dr. Omari announced the formation of a special committee comprising four deans of public community colleges and two deans of private colleges to conduct an evaluation of the work of the existing community colleges. The committee, he said, would study each college's performance and report on whether its curricula was of benefit to the community.

What God has joined together Man cannot asunder

WEDDING

Bernhard Heckener Ralida Sollman Dahaprah
Will wed at the Roman Catholic Church in Al Hai Al Shamali in Zarqa at 6:30 p.m., on Friday, July 9, 1993. The parents of the bride and bridegroom invite members of their families, relatives and friends to attend the wedding. Congratulations will directly follow the ceremony in the church's yard.

Jordan Times

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G-7's ambitions

THE AGENDA of the Group of Seven industrial nations currently meeting in Tokyo is heavily laden with political issues. Traditionally this assembly of the mighty states was occupied with economic subjects with a view to subtly deploy their collective economic power to exert pressure or influence on international issues, be they political, economic or otherwise. Nowadays, the intentions of these powers in regard to political conflicts are no longer couched in economic terms. The Tokyo summit, therefore, has several key political issues on the agenda, ranging from Iran and Iraq to Bosnia, Russia, Ukraine and international terrorism. This evolution in the scope and purview of the Group of Seven summit suggests that the strong nations of the world seek to dominate the poorer nations not only in economic matters but also politically and as far as security issues are concerned.

The developing nations of the international community are already sensing the hardships in dealing with the United Nations Security Council which is run and operated by four of the G-7 nations. There are increasing calls from all corners of the world for the Security Council to be more democratically constituted in order to represent the comity of nations in a more equitable manner. The same reasons that are leading the poorer nations of the world to rise in arms against the hegemony of the five permanent members of the Security Council would no doubt jolt them into action against the G-7 nations.

The issues of the richest nations of the world, be they economic or political, cannot be addressed properly and especially fairly in isolation from the majority nations of the world. The projected reaction from the developing countries is further buttressed by the clear double standards that often characterise the perspective of the nations of the North vis-a-vis the nations of the South. Whether the non-aligned nations would indeed regroup in an effective way to counter the increasing clout of the industrial nations is still open to conjecture. The non-aligned nations have lost stature and relevance in recent times in view of the collapse of the communist order and the domination of the Western countries over all other groupings of states. The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is also losing ground in the international arena due to a multiplicity of factors foremost among which is the soft and fragile linkage that exists between the member states of these countries. There is hardly a need to refer to the weakness of the Arab League which had never reached the zenith that was envisioned for it at the outset by the Arab peoples and governments. The end result is the compelling fact that G-7 nations have the field to themselves for the moment until some change will take place.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE CONTINUING meetings and consultations between the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and His Majesty King Hussein are based on firm foundations and conducted in an atmosphere characterised by frankness and seriousness, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Wednesday. In their latest discussions Tuesday, the two leaders reaffirmed the principles that govern the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship and ensure coordination between the two leaderships in matters of destiny, said Al Dustour. The meeting coincided with a series of political developments and important events in the Arab World as the Arabs continue to struggle in defence of the Palestinian cause, added the paper. Needless to say that the failed 10th round of Arab-Israeli talks figured high on the agenda of the two leaders who later described their talks as very positive, continued the daily. King Hussein, who described the talks with Mr. Arafat as fruitful, was careful to note that the two sides were keen on maintaining the strongest ties of cooperation, at the highest levels, said the daily. We follow with deep satisfaction the position and constructive development of relations between the two sides and we view with a great degree of confidence and hope the future relationship, said the daily. It said that the continued meetings between the two leaders are bound to pave the ground for a pan-Arab collective action, capable of serving the Palestinian cause.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily said that certain merchants are monopolising cement once again, creating a crisis in the local market. These merchants are not only satisfied by selling the cement at exorbitant prices, they also conceal the cement to sell to their friends and the highest bidders, said Salameh Ekour. The writer said that the Ministry of Supply has teams that are entrusted with the task of inspecting and ensuring that the merchants abide by regulations concerning prices and the quality of products on sale. He said that the Ministry of Supply ought to send out inspection teams to see to it that the cement merchants sell this essential product at official prices and that the cement is available all the time for the public. If cement is not sufficient for the public demand, the ministry ought to open the door for imports so that the crisis in the local market can end once and for all, demanded the writer. He said that by allowing imported cement into the market, the ministry would put an end to manipulation and deter the merchants from pursuing their monopolising policy.

Responsibility is the condition for freedom's political survival

The following excerpts from German President Richard von Weizsäcker's speech on the 50th anniversary of the Scholls (student leaders) and the "White Rose" (student resistance organisation) are reprinted from the Bonn-based magazine Kultur-chronik.

"Read the cloak of indifference you have wrapped around your hearts. Decide before it is too late." Half a century has passed since the White Rose disseminated this appeal in their last-but-one leaflet, just before imprisonment and death. Yet every age, and particularly ours, recognises in its own way that these words are addressed to it. We sense from within an ever-renewed response to the sign given by the White Rose.

"If freedom only serves private well-being, if it is merely active in a market of goods and media that favours striving for advantage within inadequate moral and social circumstances, if freedom remains tolerance without participation and is indifferent to other people's fate, in short, if freedom does not lead to solidarity, then it will not be viable over the longer term."

This Munich circle of friends thought, spoke, and acted out of the profundity of human experience. Its members did not themselves want to bring about a political push, but they were determined to stand by their insights and convictions. They faced up to the evil they saw and recognised. When danger directly threatened, they fulfilled their way with exemplary courage — and without seeking flight.

After the war it was extremely difficult for each new generation to comprehend how the inconceivable crimes of National Socialism could have come about. Had upbringing or tradition resulted in obvious injustice being tolerated, supported, desired by many, and implemented by more than just a few? How could you elders — they asked — look on as the Jewish neighbour was stigmatised and dragged off down the street? How could you?

Later younger generations found more of an answer to their questions about National Socialism in the attitudes and activities of the White Rose than in the dogged silence of disturbed parents and educators.

Any remembrance is an action within our own present day. It determines our viewpoint, our questions, and our search for orientation. Our challenges today also allow ever-renewed understanding and interpretation of the past.

We are aware in that process of the impossibility of comparing today's conditions with those of fifty years ago. At that time speaking freely involved risking your life. We must beware of any thoughtless parallels, especially when talking of resistance.

However, any life and any age involve the danger of apathetic, convenient conformism. Young people always seek anew for orientating values, truth, and the meaning and object of personal responsibility. That is why I am especially moved to read about students in today's Munich reflecting on the White Rose. That is the decisive issue — for me too.

The White Rose student resistance group is not just a matter for experts in contemporary history. It concerns everyone — and not just the young but most certainly older people. "Survival in defiance of all acts of oppression," wrote Hans Scholl on his cell wall before facing the executioner. How did he and his circle have such an affirmative attitude towards life, so sure of themselves? How did they gain the conviction that they were not obliged to be loyal to the unjust National Socialist regime? From what sources came the profound inner assurance that it is faint-hearted to tolerate evil policies? Sophie Scholl wrote in a letter: "We were simply brought up politically," but that did not entail an upbringing for resistance but rather an education in intellectual freedom, autonomous judgement, and the will to decide for oneself — if necessary also to the point of resistance.

Thought and action were one for that closely-linked group of Munich students, and they experienced what they did as being a first step. "After all, someone must make a start" — Sophie Scholl told the so-called People's Court when asked what had moved her to act. That is the challenge with which she countered the danger that people become inured to all suffering and injustice, thereby succumbing to the constantly renewed temptation of conformism. In her diary and in a letter we find a sentence by Jacques Maritain, the French philosopher, which can be viewed as a maxim for the stand taken by the White Rose group.

"Il faut avoir l'esprit dur et le cœur doux" — an unyielding spirit and a feeling heart. Those words are valid at all times and for all generations. Already with the Psalmist we find the request

for a pure heart and a new and certain spirit.

The Munich students' expectation that many would think like them and follow their appeal was not fulfilled. Their fate was thought a failure. Time and again the question has arisen whether the White Rose really was a beginning which also affects us today. Could it become the starting-point for a political tradition? Did it not in reality merely give expression to the religiously-founded idealism of a naive German educated bourgeoisie? No matter how indelibly their moral deed may have marked our history, it is maintained that they lacked the power to establish the necessary relationship between their moral integrity and political rationality.

"Our democracy today gives the impression of reversed priorities. The right of intervention in private life is withheld from the state. Its task is to promote the citizen's well-being. This citizen increasingly comprehends himself as an upholder of politics but certainly accepts being its consumer."

The doubters do not therefore see any new political beginning but rather a continuation of that unpatriotic attitude of the German bourgeoisie which in 1948 succumbed with its ideals to naked power and since then has not produced any other effective political impulse. The bourgeoisie thereby deepened the gulf between intellect and power characteristic of our country. Politics is then viewed as being dirty and immoral. White Rose resistance against evil is claimed to be only an appeal for a change of heart, founded on love, but in reality signifying a withdrawal from politics and history.

The Munich students were in fact not a political cadre. They did not want to implement a specific political programme. However, they were filled with the necessity of speaking out on behalf of moral politics and civilisation, which are at all times endangered and without which no concrete political proposal can endure.

National Socialism operated with the reverse of Maritain's maxim: intellects were to be forced into line and hearts har-

dened to the point of brutalisation. The White Rose was not concerned with opinions about a clever way or a better plan, but rather with fundamental values in the co-existence of human beings — granted intellect and spirit.

Their resistance was a counter-existence through arguing against evil. What is unpatriotic about that?

There are also impressive examples of that attitude outside the educated bourgeoisie. I think of Quangel, the Berlin worker Hans Fallada describes in his book "Jeder stirbt für sich allein". ("Everyone Dies Alone"), based on Gestapo records. Quangel saw the regime's brutality and dishonesty with mounting clarity. For two years he and his wife wrote postcards which they laid in front of neighbour's doors near and far, denouncing that pernicious ideology. When he was finally tracked down and arrested by the Gestapo, he grew under interrogation into a fulfilled and strong selfhood since his unshakeable tranquillity and certainty of being put pressure on his persecutors, making them increasingly uncertain, until he was executed.

It is the character involved that makes these signs so impressive for us. Is that of no political significance? Is it really just of moral or psychological interest for us, but without political implications?

More important than the question of what political opinions a person has, what party he votes for, and what he thinks about the issues currently being publicly disputed are the convictions underlying the way he lives and acts. These convictions are as much rooted in his essence as in his knowledge. What a person is the decisive factor, not just what he has in his head. What should be called into question here is not the so-called educated bourgeoisie but rather political education which supplies us with experts and knowledge, and teaches us to apply the constitution and employ legal means, without asking, first and last, about human attitudes.

The Munich students' resistance as counter-existence was an expression of this attitude in their time. That task presents itself in every historical epoch. It is always concerned with the fundamental conditions of co-existence in state and society without which the idea of politics is meaningless.

Among the Greeks the private person was accorded a right of participation in the state. He was supposed to be able to contribute something towards the community. Our democracy today gives the impression of reversed priorities. The right of intervention in private life is withheld from the state. It is task is to promote the citizen's well-being. This citizen increasingly comprehends himself as an upholder of politics but certainly accepts being its consumer. He organises his interests

and makes them known. He controls their satisfaction, behaving as if at a normal market. He buys with his vote — or does not buy. It is his private interests that he politicises. He needs the state for his personal objectives — but only for that. A relationship to the state as community which goes beyond that, even a moral relationship, becomes stunted.

We are happy that totalitarianism has largely been conquered within Europe. The citizen is protected from the despotism against which the Scholls and their friends revolted. Democracy preserves us from encroachments. It protects us against being misused, exploited, and subjected to surveillance by the state. That is freedom.

However, freedom involves responsibility. That is not a restriction of freedom but the precondition for freedom not being put at risk once again. Readiness and capacity for responsibility are the condition for freedom's political survival.

"Anyone who has reason to be annoyed about the behaviour of persons, parties, and organisations should get involved in politics rather than turning away from it."

If, however, freedom only serves private well-being, if it is merely active in a market of goods and media that favours striving for advantage within inadequate moral and social circumstances, if freedom remains tolerance without participation and is indifferent to other people's fates, in short, if freedom does not lead to solidarity, then it will not be viable over the longer term.

Today it is not a question of speaking out against evil. At issue is the weakness that drives us apart and against one another instead of holding us together. It is of decisive political importance to know, to want, and to help support what links us together in our liberal democracy. A free democracy only continues functioning if it is also a community rather than a mere sum of private beings, and if we stick together through and in that community. That cannot succeed without solidarity.

Without solidarity democracy loses the capacity for solution of problems. It reduces politics to power, which is ultimately always at the expense of freedom.

Democracy ultimately entails not viewing politics as the power of rulers. The object of politics in a democratic state is the appropriate ordering and regulation of human co-existence. For that, political leadership is of

course also necessary in a democracy, a leadership to which the people give instructions and power for a limited period. To be sure, there thus unfolds an attraction of power for power's sake. Struggles for such power reveal the entire range of human characteristics. That is often repulsive. The question is: what consequences are to be drawn from that?

In 1992 "weariness with politics" was declared to be the word of the year. In fact this is a non-word originating in old misunderstandings and current weaknesses. It tears apart what belongs together: some make politics, others react with aversion. It views politics as the monopoly of selected actors, of professional politicians and parties. And non-professionals, citizens, lay claim to this weariness so as to withdraw into resignation and a private existence. Weariness with what? Anyone who has reason to be annoyed about the behaviour of persons, parties, and organisations should get involved in politics rather than turning away from it. In criticism of the political class, Jens Reich, one of the active champions of the changeover in the former East Germany, speaks of weariness with himself. That is what is at issue in a democracy.

Everyone is responsible for what he does and shares responsibility for what he allows to happen. The truly political element involves a duty to oneself. In the darkest moment of our history this century the members of the White Rose made that manifest. Every generation faces up, in a new and different way, to the task of not looking away when injustice occurs, not avoiding conflicts, not becoming indifferent and not avoiding surmounting passivity and fatalism, fear of risk-taking and conformism, even if this is not a matter of life and death.

At last this century's totalitarian systems have largely been overcome at the cost of unspeakable suffering. However, the triumph of freedom is not enough. Everyone is faced with the question of how to make use of that freedom. The search for justice with which classical philosophers began is not yet over, either at home or across the world. The inhabitability of the earth is at risk. Human dignity is time and again endangered. Those are our epoch's central political themes under the sign of the limits to growth.

The members of the White Rose non-violently sacrificed their lives on behalf of everyone's fundamental values. They affirmed and fulfilled those values. What was political about them was their ethos. Their resistance was not a failure but posed beyond their time. Their faith and action are a sign of hope and a reminder. Each generation's courage decides anew over civilisation. We can only preserve that civilisation with an unyielding spirit and a loving heart — in 1993 as in 1943.

Gulf Arabs move towards better ties with opponents

By Youssef Azme
Reuters

DUBAI — Wealthy Gulf states are moving unevenly towards renewing ties with Arab countries they blacklisted for opposing the Gulf war alliance against Iraq.

The foreign ministers of two of those countries, Yemen and Sudan, were visiting Bahrain and Qatar respectively on Monday. Diplomats said the ministers' trips were the latest sign that Gulf doors were opening once more to "wayward brothers" — a category that also includes Jordanians and Palestinians.

Among the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) it is not surprisingly Kuwait, which was occupied by Iraqi invasion troops for seven months in 1990-91, which has shown the greatest reluctance to forgive.

Jordanians and Palestinians had large communities in pre-invasion Kuwait.

Some actively supported Iraq during the occupation and according to one Arab diplomat "the wounds run deep... Reconciliation will take a long time."

Iraqis remain persona non grata in most of the Gulf although Qatar, a maverick among Gulf states that likes to pursue an independent policy, has been flirting with Baghdad for some time, Gulf diplomats said.

Qatar, which alone with Oman among GCC states did not break formal ties with Iraq in 1990, is reported to be planning to send a soccer team to Baghdad.

And the Iraqi ambassador in Doha has been received in audience several times by the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, and his son and crown prince, Sheikh Hamad.

The GCC countries — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — have since the Gulf war barred virtually all Palestinians and citizens of the "wayward" states except for a few long-time residents.

Conditions have eased in most Gulf states in the past few months, however.

Even the occasional well-connected Iraqi is being allowed to visit, diplomats said.

The relaxation has come partly as a result of pressure by Arab leaders such as Morocco's King Hassan, who has been working for months to end a rift that virtually paralyses the Arab League and other pan-Arab institutions.

Jordan, Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) all used to benefit hugely from Gulf largesse.

They have been trying since last year to distance themselves from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Yemeni approach has met some success because of the country's strategic importance at the southern entrance of the Red Sea and because of its position on Saudi Arabia's sensitive southern border, the diplomats said.

The PLO is starting to get some recognition because Gulf states want to encourage Palestinian participation in U.S.-sponsored peace talks with Israel, they said.

The visit by the Sudanese minister to Qatar was a surprise because Gulf ties remain generally tense with the Islamic fundamentalist rulers of Khartoum, partly because of their links with non-Arab Iran, seen as a threat by other GCC states.

"But Qatar is not typical," one diplomat said.

Holding a South African election will be daunting task

By Greg Myre
The Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Gail Day begins her seminars on democracy with a few questions. The answers often disappoint, but no longer surprise her.

"Can the majority shut down a newspaper published by a minority group?" she asked a group of black factory workers. "Yes," they said in unison.

"Can the majority cut off the ears of people in the minority?" she queried. "Yes," they replied.

"Should the majority be permitted to kill members of the minority?" she tried. "No," answered one man. "That would be intimidation."

South African political parties have agreed to hold the country's first all-race election on April 27. But for many of South Africa's 30 million blacks, who have been denied political rights enjoyed only by the white minority, democracy remains a hazy concept.

Preparing for the election will be a daunting task. After decades of neglect by a government that favours whites in the allocation of funds and resources, millions of blacks are illiterate.

The country has no history of political tolerance. Blacks, accustomed to oppression, remain suspicious of whites. Faction fighting between rival black groups has killed more than 10,000 people the past three years.

Political parties and some non-partisan groups, like Ms. Day's grassroots organisation, have started teaching democracy. They are making progress, though hiccups are common.

The Matla Trust, a black development group, ran into problems when it created a light-

hearted play about how to vote, which it performs for black students and workers around Johannesburg.

The actors told the audience they must go to the "polling station" — an unfamiliar term that sounded like "police station" — words that inspire dread in many blacks.

The play was revised to substitute the phrase "voting booth." Elderly blacks, who have endured a lifetime of racism and discrimination, sometimes say they are too intimidated to vote, said Gail de Vlieg of the Black Sash, a liberal group run by white women to assist blacks.

Elderly blacks fear the wrath of rival black factions in their neighbourhoods. They also worry the white minority government will cut off their pensions if they demand to vote, Ms. de Vlieg said.

Some women the Black Sash works with have never held a pencil in their lives, and the group teaches women how to mark an "X" on a ballot paper.

"Voting is still a very mysterious thing. It takes people a while to get over their fears," Ms. de Vlieg said.

The African National Congress, the leading black group and the overwhelming election favourite, teaches voting at its rallies and tells its supporters they must be tolerant of rivals.

At a recent event that packed a 30,000-seat soccer stadium, ANC officials passed out mock ballots, told supporters to fill them in and place them in cardboard boxes on the way out.

But as ANC officials were making their way through the stands, the crowd was chanting, "Kill the boer, kill the farmer," a reference to white settlers who over the centuries pushed blacks off their land. ANC leaders have

officially denounced the slogan to no avail.

Some groups allied with the ANC have said white parties

shouldn't be allowed to campaign in black areas. Already, several rallies by white groups in black townships have been broken up.

Don't alter 'just solution'

Following is an editorial that appeared in The Christian Science Monitor of July 7, 1993

THE 10TH round of the Middle East peace talks ended June 30 with both the Israeli and Arab sides in a deadlock. It has been 20 months since the talks, sponsored by the United States and Russia, began — and they are mired in pessimism and anger. The process. But its role and the angle it will take under the Clinton administration are still unclear. Last week, the State Department put forward a new peace plan officials said is designed to keep the process between the Israelis and the Palestinians moving: this week Dennis Ross, the head of the U.S. team, is going to the region.

The plan is the first, advocacy position the U.S. has taken since the talks began in 1991. Importantly, it is the first real hint of where the Clinton White House stands. The Bush administration brokered, forceful disapproval expressed by the then-Secretary of State James Baker III of Israeli settlements on the West Bank reinforced this.

The Clinton administration seems to be changing the rules. The new U.S. Plan does offer needed continuity with previous positions. This is worrisome. The confidence and trust of all parties requires a fair process. The Monitor reports that the new process is based on. Rather than using the U.S. "letter of invitation" it sent the parties. Under new terms of reference, the crucial spirit of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, ("land for peace") could be reinterpreted so that whatever is decided by the process fulfils the U.N. resolutions. This pressures the weak party and opens the door for expediency and might rather than law, to dictate a solution.

The Palestinians are understandably dismayed by the plan. Israel at first expressed anger, but tellingly now supports it. The Middle East peace process was a significant achievement of fairness. It will be said if the White House begins to signal that the weaker party must bend. A resolution of the Palestinian problem is central to an overall Arab-Israeli peace resolution. This is 338, and by building on the progress made by U.S. policy.

Artist seeks to discover secret of human nature

By Ica Wabbah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The tall, slim, dark man with white wisps of hair enters the room and smiles. The high ceiling does not manage to dwarf him. His thin frame dominates, establishes him as the master of the place and of the things in there.

And beautiful things they are too. For the man is Tawfiq Al Sayed, painter, sculptor, architect, interior and clothes designer, professor of anatomy, painting and perspective, with an inborn curiosity to discover the secrets of human nature, its creation, evolution and function.

Endowed with talent, the declared humanist has shown skill at the age of six, from which time a few paintings have been saved and now are part of the artist's collection. One of them captures the naïveté of the child who believed that the nine-fingered teacher who used to beat him

up would be taken away by, who else but police, and the crayon drawing is a document that makes you smile with understanding and amusement.

Mr. Sayed's studio in Jabal Jofa, where his works are on display since June 26, could be taken for the laboratory of an alchemist, the library of an erudite professor, the drawing room of a draftsman, the studio of a painter — complete with brushes and palettes — or one of a sculptor, and the gallery of an avid collector.

Space is not very generous and at times you have to strain the neck to be able to have a good look at the paintings high on the wall. But it is worth the effort as the more you look the more you discover things and become amazed by the ingenuity and imagination of the artist.

A fastidious person, (his works are catalogued, each has a personal card with paintings data regarding size, period, owner, medium used

and is documented on slides) Mr. Sayed is as meticulous when it comes to accumulating knowledge that could help better understand human nature.

Anatomical drawings of legs and skulls bring to mind Michelangelo's sketches; human bodies and animals caught in various postures denote an obsession with the desire for perfection.

But not all paintings are as minutely detailed. Original compositions seem at first look abstract. They only reveal themselves after long concentration and you find out with amazement that a human figure is distinguishable in the maze of bold colour strokes. It is the case of "my Christ", as the artist proudly calls it, a genial composition which represents a crucified Jesus, hands and legs nailed and head crushed under the burden of strong, crossed, brownish oil stripes, symbol of life's heaviness under which most of us crumble.

The genius of the artist emanates from his very first creations, when the six or seven-year-old child could barely write his name on the already philosophical drawing of skulls (inspired by

those seen in the cemetery on his way to school, where he would sit and try to find the "secret" of life and human being), to his paintings, sculptures, caricatures, weldings, works with coloured glass (similar to the highly decorative stained glass), emblems for different public institutions and sketches for public monuments.

The artist, in his rich creative life, is sure to have left his mark, to have carved himself a special place in the artistic arena not only of Jordan but of the world at large.

Chiselling his innate talent in Spain and Italy, Mr. Sayed has travelled world-wide, exhibiting his works in Sweden, China, Austria, to mention only a few places on the huge globe of which "maybe seven countries I still have to see to have seen it all."

The medium he uses is as varied as his works: "pure oil", acrylic, water colour, gouache, China ink, pastel, canvas, paper, carton, wood, fiber glass, clay, gypsum, lead, silk and metal are used for the artist to display his talent at painting, etching, linotype, aquatint, sculpting and casting his sculptures.

A true humanist, Mr. Sayed speaks quite a few



The bust of Abdul Qassem Al Zahrawi

languages, has his own theories regarding the creation and evolution of the human being, believes in the necessity of studying human nature from a multitude of perspectives and disciplines (anthropology, history, philosophy) and has firm beliefs regarding art, the artist and his creed.

"I paint at times with my own fingers, with the twig of a tree, in the middle of nature. It is not the material that counts, it is the culture, the philosophy, the belief, the feelings" of an artist, he says. "An artist is a flag, an ambassador; he is more than a politician, he represents his people and the truth, as he feels and knows it," says Mr. Sayed in a confession of faith.

His astounding landscapes of Amman, where the colour purple is predominant and gives a freshness difficult to obtain with such a rigid tint, are meant "to remove the dust, the air and take you in

with the warmth of the atmosphere."

Barely sketched figures develop into three-dimensional representations or exquisitely detailed bronze fiber glass busts, like the ones of his teenage (at the time) son or that of Abdul Qassem Al Zahrawi, "the first Arab doctor who performed a kidney operation and teacher of Ibn Sina."

All works are done by the artist himself, including modelling in clay, creating the mould and casting, welding and experimenting with chemicals for obtaining pigments.

Full of energy, the master still has time to teach future artists, who learn the secrets of the profession in his workshop, and do research.

Ignoring the little inconvenience of having to climb the steep Jabal Jofa, his studio must be visited. It is going to be open to the public until July 15.



One of the oil paintings by Tawfiq Al Sayed



China ink on rice paper by the artist

Brazil saying no to violence against women

By Tova Chapoval
Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — When Brazilian soap opera actor Guilherme De Padua confessed to brutally murdering his beautiful co-star Daniela Perez last December, he defended himself by saying she had tried to seduce him.

De Padua, who told police he wanted to protect his marriage, expected sympathy. But what he got was a national outcry.

Experts say the indignation provoked by De Padua's attitude demonstrated a shift in attitude towards violence committed against women as well as the leniency often granted to male perpetrators of these crimes.

Many in Brazilian society have long accepted "legitimate defence of honour" as

an excuse for a man to injure or even kill an adulterous wife.

"This philosophy is changing a great deal. But there are still judges who think a man can kill because his honour has been offended," said Edileide Salgado de Nascimento, vice president of the Rio government's state council for the rights of women.

"We are trying to speak with these judges in various parts of Brazil...to make them see and understand there is no honour that can be cleaned with another's blood."

Violence in Brazil extends from the forced prostitution of young girls in the Amazon, to the homes of the rich where maids are used to initiate teenage boys into the world of sex, to a lingerie company that allegedly re-

quired female employees to strip before leaving work to prevent thefts.

A recent study presented by the council to a congressional commission investigating violence against women cites the case of a dentist in Pernambuco state who "killed his sister-in-law, injured his own sister and left his wife quadriplegic. The motive was the couple's separation."

The man has yet to be punished. In the past, it has been especially difficult for women to come forward and accuse their husbands of abuse.

"The very culture tends to blame the woman for marital failures and for her situation as a victim," said the study. But Brazilian women are slowly overcoming their fear of going public with the abuse they suffer.

"Women are beginning to have courage to discuss this," said Ms. De Nascimento.

A principal motive behind the diminished fear has been the creation of police stations especially for women known as "Delegacias De Mulheres."

"In Rio alone there are five. When women had to go to regular police stations they faced prejudices that they did something to provoke the attack and many police officers felt they should not get involved in marital fights," said Argelia Ruiz, head of the Delegacia De Mulheres in downtown Rio, where most of the 32 officers are women.

"But here we see (this abuse) as a brutal crime and we encourage women to go ahead and press charges," According to Ms. Ruiz, 90

per cent of the cases involving physical injuries to women handled at her station have resulted in the maximum prison sentence of eight years.

Since the creation of the Delegacias in the mid-1980s, the number of cases registered have risen, Ms. Ruiz said. But she attributed the increase mainly to the fact that women feel more comfortable coming forward with their problems.

Ms. Ruiz said the majority of women who seek out the Delegacia, which registers 10-15 cases a day, are from lower-income families. But the upper classes, traditionally more reluctant to go public, also seek help.

One 26-year-old woman, from Rio's chic southern zone, sought out the Delegacia after her husband's prob-

lem with alcohol made him increasingly aggressive.

The woman, who asked not to be named, said that when her husband drank he would punch her in the stomach, kick her and throw her on the floor, even in public.

"I stayed for so long because I had no way to support myself and my baby," said the woman, who had to drop out of college when she became pregnant.

"In the majority of cases, the victims feel themselves incapable of confronting the violence on a personal level, as well as the socio-economic changes," said the Rio council study.

This is particularly true for lower-income women, who have little education or means of earning a living and so feel they have no choice but to tolerate the abuse.

Japan scholar's 'simple life' plea is best-seller

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

TOKYO — A scholarly book attacking Japan's increasingly money-centred, disposable society and extolling the virtues of a simple life has become a runaway best-seller.

To the astonishment of both author and publisher, whose initial print run was just 8,000, *The Concept of Honest Poverty* has sold 600,000 copies in the past eight months. It has been reprinted 40 times.

The book seems to have touched a raw nerve in a people disgusted at the greed and mendacity of their politicians and still suffering from the after-effects of the land and stock price "bubble" of the late 1980s.

"However rich Japan becomes, it will never get the

respect of the world," says author Koji Nakano, 68. "To earn respect, we need dignity, civility and the philosophy of honest poverty."

"Our image is that of a country that's good at making things but has no culture. Foreigners say Japanese lack character and dignity and think of us just as people with money."

The son of a carpenter, Nakano graduated in German literature from Tokyo University and now works as a professor, translator, literary critic and author.

He believes Japanese should look to their own history and culture for examples to follow.

His book portrays 15 distinguished historical figures — monks, scholars, painters and masters of the tea ceremony — who he says embody the traditional virtues of plain

living, honesty, simplicity and richness of spirit.

Such things are not a matter of money, he argues.

Emissaries sent to Europe in the final days of the Edo era (1603-1868) earned respect for being men of dignity, he says. Not so those who went as salesmen in the 1960s and 1970s.

"In the Edo period, merchant firms had a strict code of ethics as well as a drive for profit. How different from today, where amassing money is the top goal," he says.

"It is worthless to mass-produce cars and televisions. Japan has few resources and is unsuitable for mass production and mass consumption. We should move from quantity to quality. In the past we made wonderful objects."

One reason for the book's success has been its timing. Japanese have greeted with disgust revelations of how Shin Kanemaru, the country's most powerful politician, skimmed off millions of dollars from political funds he controlled.

At the same time, the country has suffered its worst economic slowdown for nearly 20 years, due in part to the collapse of the bubble which left banks with billions of dollars in bad debts.

The vertiginous rise in land prices made some firms and individuals instant millionaires, but it prevented millions of others from buying their own homes. This widened a gap between rich and poor that, since 1945, had been the smallest of any big industrialised nation.

Nakano's book seems to have caught the mood of

millions of Japanese reflecting on the immorality of their leaders and the conspicuous consumption of the bubble era.

"My life has become muddy," wrote a 32-year-old cram school teacher to the publisher after reading the book. "Now is the time for everyone to seek time and space and consider what is really precious in life."

One 48-year-old woman said the book had made her recall her father's words not to waste a single grain of rice.

True to his precepts, she boasted that she owned no car and had used the same rice cooker for 18 years. A model consumer would have replaced it every few years.

After Japan's defeat in 1945, Nakano says, historians, critics and left-wing activists repudiated all of the nation's past as bad, thus

discarding its cultural identity.

Traditional Japanese Joinery, for example, had been the finest in the world, he says. When a house was taken down, nothing was wasted because pillars, beams and tiles too could all be reused to build another. Today, he laments, a giant machine turned a house into rubble in a single day.

"We have replaced quality with quantity. Just because a person pays billions of yen for a Van Gogh, does that make it a wonderful painting? Japan's essential culture is a culture of quality, not quantity..."

"Now is the time for things of the heart and the spirit, things that cannot be seen. These are what the Japanese of today have neglected most of all," Nakano says.

Diary

An article published in the latest edition of the leftist weekly newspaper *Al Ahali* is telling enough to be this week's diary. The article was signed by the editor of *Al Ahali*.

TOUCHED: The issue before last of *Al Ahali* has attracted many strong reactions who has upset the authorities. The Department of Press and Publications has registered a violation against us, citing Article 40-A-2 that bans the publication of any material that "touches" on the security apparatus.

That issue in fact has included a number of articles that touched on the security issue including one on arrests at Muta University and a commentary entitled "The Flowers of the Mukhabarat" and another commentary on the Press and Publication Law and an interview with Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Mohammad Abu Faris which included harsh judgement of successive governments.

The minister of information, Dr. Maan Abu Nowar, sent us a letter in which he called upon us to take into account "the higher interests of the country and democracy." In all honesty, the minister of information's heartfelt appeal impressed on us the need to clarify our position because the last thing we would think of is to harm the country and democracy.

Let us begin with the interview with Deputy Mohammad Abu Faris who described all the governments of being "liars." We cannot take responsibility for this description because it represents the opinion of the deputy and our role does not include "softening" the deputy's assessment. And although we do not think that honesty was the prevailing feature of the consecutive governments, we still did not use the deputy's term in our commentaries. Anyway, we think that one should be paying attention to the political aspect of that assessment rather than its moral one in such a context.

As for the news item on the arrests at Muta University, we were careful not to publish the story despite the incredible number of rumours on the subject. We only published an article after we received information from the relatives of those arrested, who not only verified the rumours but also provided copies of telegrams to certain authorities requesting that they be allowed to see their relatives.

What were we supposed to do? Do we ignore the essence of our profession because the information "touches" the security apparatus? We have removed all mention of what would be considered military issues in the news item, but the news of the actual arrests had to be published because there are no secret arrests in times of democracy. An arrest should be made public and excusable and since it is taking place according to the stipulations of the law, the concerned authorities should not be worried. The minister admonishes us for exaggerating the number of those arrested and reminds us that we should have verified the number before publishing. Who would have helped us in this endeavour? Will the Ministry of Interior answer us about the number? Does it actually have the information on this subject?

Anyway, we initiated a precedent, possibly the first of its kind, and we called the head of the Intelligence Department to doublecheck our information, but we did not find him. We did leave a message that a clarification from the department before the evening of the next day would be appreciated. Our hope that we would get a response from the department was very small.

As for the commentary on the "Flowers of the Mukhabarat," there is a nice story. We had rejected a commentary of our colleague Basil Tallozi on the Jordanian position towards the executions in Kuwait because of its biting tone. While discussing the commentary, the conversation took a turn whereby a question was put by one of us on whether walking past the Mukhabarat building still invokes the sense of fear and rejection it used to invoke before. Most of those in the room said that they had overcome that feeling except for our colleague Basil who said he wanted to go there and doublecheck his feeling. So he went there and for the first time he noticed the flowers planted around the wall. So he came back to us the next day with his commentary which does not carry a single iota of harm towards national security or the security apparatus. It does, however, fall in line with the sarcastic and biting tone of our columnist Basil who at times takes the mick; out of the newspaper itself.

We do not ask for a higher sportsmanship and better acceptance of the sarcastic tone which may have overstepped the air of reverence and gloominess that surrounds some of the departments. It might still be a bit early but we take this opportunity to discuss that article in the Press and Publications Law that bans the publication of what "touches" the security apparatus. This article is a real predicament in which the deputies and the government have placed us. What does "touch" mean? Is it a ban on publishing anything on security whether it is positive or negative? And if praise is what is allowed then are we supposed to keep mum over all mistakes whether small or large? Doesn't that constitute putting these apparatus above accountability and leaving it free of all responsibility? Doesn't that contravene the Constitution?

If the article means not touching the security of army, Public Security and Intelligence Department etc., because they are agencies which deal with national security and we cannot publish what is harmful to national security, then that is acceptable and we are sure that the courts will not find a problem in applying this law. And in this case and according to this explanation we do not find that we at this newspaper have done anything that contravenes the law. We see that all this anger over our colleague Basil's commentary goes back to a predominant psychological state which attaches itself to the Mukhabarat and which we do not accept or condone.

On this occasion we have to say that the Mukhabarat apparatus is like any other agency in this country that needs reform and development to accommodate the new period of democracy. And the first prerequisite to reform is to create a separation between internal security and external security. In undemocratic systems, security is the security of the regime against all enemies and opposers whether from inside or outside. That is why they have one agency to handle all of its affairs. But in democratic nations a separation is created between the two tasks because they are of a different nature. Then fighting espionage, protecting national security and serving the policies of the nation concern the external security apparatus, while the internal security apparatus oversees the protection of democracy and its legitimate and constitutional institutions from any conspiracy to ensure the supremacy of the law. In that task this agency remains objective politically and does not interfere to protect one side over another.

We think that such issues cannot remain untouched since we are all concerned about the security of our country and we should be able to propose and discuss ideas which could contribute to the development of our security agencies so that it would serve the interests of our nation and its democratic system in the manner on which the people of Jordan have chosen.

Nermeen Murad

'Divine Word of Islam' on exhibit at the Sackler Gallery.

By Rosalind Mandine Murphy

WASHINGTON — The primacy of the word of God in Islamic art is reflected in "The Divine Word of Islam," a new exhibit which opened here on July 4 at the Smithsonian Institution's Arthur M. Sackler Gallery.

The exhibit contains 17 works, including bound manuscripts of the Koran, folios from dispersed volumes, a book of prayers and a ceramic tombstone. The works come from Egypt, Iran and Turkey and date from the 14th through the 18th centuries.

The preparation of a

volume of the Koran is considered an act of devotion and the need to copy the holy text exactly as it was originally written has had "tremendous impact on Islamic art," exhibit curator Marianna Shreve Simpson explained.

Through the centuries, she noted, different forms of calligraphic script and illumination in gold and colours were developed to decorate the manuscripts of the Koran. The development of these forms of art and the importance of God's word to Islamic art are brilliantly on display in the Sackler exhibit.

The illuminations on exhibit feature small gold circles, blossom-like rosettes, scallops, medallions and rectangular panels. One page is a 16th century poster-size watercolour of the Prophet Muhammad atop a human-headed steed named Buraq, accompanied by Gabriel and a host of other angels. The composition is brilliantly coloured in reds, blues, pinks and green. (Representations of the Prophet are not uncommon in Islamic art, according to Simpson. Since the 15th century, his face has usually been shown covered with a veil as a mark of respect, she noted.)

While noting the stylistic changes in calligraphy and manuscript illumination throughout the centuries, Ms. Simpson stressed that "the words of the Koran are always the same."

No matter the style of script or illumination, country of origin or century the work was produced in, "there is no deviation from the original words. The word of God is the word of God," she underscored.

Producing beautifully illuminated manuscripts of the Koran is a way of "enhancing the word of God and expressing piety," Ms. Simpson said.

The works in the exhibit span five centuries, she said, because, "interest in beautifying the word of God was as strong at the end of the 18th century as it was from the outset" of the Islamic religion in the 7th century. In fact, she added, the art of calligraphy and manuscript illumination continues today.

Ms. Simpson said a highlight of the exhibit is a late 14th century manuscript from Egypt, made for Amir Aytimish Al-Bajasi, a commander of the Mamluk dynasty. The manuscript's "fineness of calligraphy, clarity of colours" — particularly the "clearness

of the blues" — and the exquisite leather binding are a stand-out in the collection, she said.

Ms. Simpson pointed to a set of four pages from a 16th century volume as a unique work of Islamic art. Koranic manuscripts often were not illuminated throughout every page, she explained. However, Ms. Simpson said, this set indicates that every page of the Koran the folios were taken from was indeed illuminated. The style of calligraphy — first, middle and last lines in large script, with other passages in smaller, indented script — is also unusual, she added.

An important component of the exhibit is its educational value for visitors who are not familiar with Islam or Islamic art, Ms. Simpson said. The exhibit "is an attempt to preserve something about the form of Islam and the foundation of the faith — the Koran," she said.

Each work in the exhibit is accompanied by a translation of excerpts of the Koranic verses written on the object. There are also panels explaining the beginnings of the Islamic faith, the importance of producing Koranic manuscripts to Islamic society and

culture and the different styles of calligraphy and illumination.

"I hope that North American visitors will understand from the translations that the message of what is in the Koran is quite familiar. There are many connections between the Judeo-Christian tradition and the Muslim religion," Ms. Simpson said.

The works are taken primarily from the Henri Vever Collection of Islamic Arts of the Book, acquired by the Sackler Gallery in 1986. They will remain on display through January 1994 — USIA.

Van Halen remains fresh despite success

By Dean Goodman
Reuters

NORTH HOLLYWOOD, California — A Van Halen concert may look like one of those soulless stadium extravaganzas where the band sleepwalks through the same songs every show and every move is planned in advance, but it is not.

Neither is the hard-rocking foursome some remote entity — middle-aged and spoiled after selling millions of albums — and with no grasp of who their fans are.

The group, despite its long-running success, manages to maintain a grip on reality as teenagers at heart and certified pranksters to boot.

"A lot of bands have like, y'know, all kinds of choreographed moves or whatever, and everything's programmed with the lights so they have to do the same thing every night," says Van Halen's jocular bassist

Michael Anthony.

"(Our's) is a skeleton set, and we pull surprises on our crew because they'll even have notes like what they think we should be doing, and suddenly we'll do something else, so it keeps it very exciting," interrupts Eddie Van Halen, the band's guitarist and chief songwriter.

"We're really a pretty basic three-piece band with a singer, so it's not like our gear or our equipment is so pre-programmed that if you don't follow the set, then something's going to go wrong. I mean I can launch into any song at any time when I want," he adds.

That's more or less how their version of the Who's 'Won't Get Fooled Again' ended up on their latest release, the platinum-selling live double set *Right Here, Right Now*.

The song is part of a batch, including Neil Young's *Rock in the Free World*, that

the band knows vaguely and plays on stage if the moment grabs them.

Other times, Anthony says, they might perform a song they heard on the car radio en route to the gig. But ironically, the songs that drive the fans wild are the VH originals like *Jump* and *Panama* and the band rehearses these thoroughly so that it can indulge in some improvisation on concert night.

Van Halen's upcoming U.S. tour, which celebrates the 15th anniversary of their signing to Warner Bros., finds them "Sitting On Top Of The World" — to quote from a VH song.

Similar combos like Boston, Journey and Bon Jovi have peaked and faded in that time, but Van Halen seem to be just as relevant and consistent.

"I don't feel any different than when I was 16-18 years old, I really don't," offers

Van Halen who in reality is 36, married to actress Valerie (One Day At A Time) Bertinelli and father of their two-year-old son Wolfgang.

"In the old days, you know, I grew up on Cream, Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin. I haven't really listened to or bought records since those days. So all the music that I've kinda written comes just from myself, from somewhere."

Van Halen and Anthony, in a recent interview with Reuters at a North Hollywood rehearsal studio, make their success sound so simple. In fact VH won acclaim out of the starting blocks with their self-titled debut album in 1978.

"I really think that if we write a piece of music that we like, I know other people will like it too. I don't care how old you are," Van Halen says.

One big change in the formula came in 1985 when ori-

ginal lead singer David Lee Roth left and was replaced by Sammy Hagar. Some fans say VH is worse off for the change, but sales figures and concert grosses tell a different story.

The 43-year-old Hagar, who is regarded as a better singer but not as witty or ebullient as Roth, has probably instilled the band with a slightly more mature outlook.

"I think we're a little more serious about our music," Van Halen says. "We don't joke as much. We don't take ourselves too serious in the least, we have great times...but it's not a Vegas show, y'know?"

Named in a recent *Musican* magazine feature as one of the greatest guitarists ever, Van Halen seems incredibly modest about his deserved position among rock's legends.

His "hundreds" of guitars



Rock star Van Halen and his wife actress Valerie Bertinelli

gathered dust for some eight months before the band's most recent studio album, 1991's *For Unlawful Carnal Knowledge*, and he prefers

playing around on the keyboards. "Guitar technique-wise and whatever, I've added to the pot so to speak," he says.

"I'm not trying to play better than anybody. You've got 12 notes to play with and you do whatever you want with them."

TV 'soap' teaches Hungarians the lost art of enterprise

By Julia Borbely
Agence France Presse

BUDAPEST — At some point during 40 years of communism, Hungarians lost the drive and skills needed to run a successful business, and while capitalism is back, the know-how is not.

But a new television soap opera aims to change all that via thirty episodes of an im-

plausible story of a young baker who starts up his own business helped with advice from, of all things, a ghost.

Frici the Enterprising Ghost, as the soap is called, tells the story of Janos, who leaves Budapest to try to set up a bakery in his fictitious native village of Poganyzent-gyorgy.

He gets unexpected help in this from Frici, the ghost of a

local businessman who lived at the beginning of the century and whose photograph is still on the wall of the bakery.

The fact that Janos falls in love with the village teacher has nothing to do with economics but gives the story a romantic twist.

Only the broad lines of the plot have been set down in writing. The actual script is written on a day-to-day basis

so as to keep up with everyday events in the country.

Frici, which is broadcast at peak viewing time just before the evening news, is watched by between 15 and 30 per cent of viewers.

Peter Szentmihalyi Szabo, one of the scriptwriters, says frankly that it is "an economic soap opera" designed to popularise the teachings of a business training course

promoted by the Lakitelek Foundation, which is close to the Magyar Democratic Forum (MDF), the main party in the ruling coalition.

When the soap started in May, it brought a barrage of abuse from opposition economists who claimed it was putting over "MDF propaganda."

The Lakitelek Founda-

tion rejected the criticism explaining that it was merely trying to revive what four decades of communism had destroyed.

"We wanted to encourage people to go into business because during 40 years of Communist rule, they forgot how to think, speak and work," said Attila Nemeth Miklos, who was put in charge of the programme by Lakitelek.

"The aim of this serial is to encourage people to take initiatives so as to repair the damage caused by the collectivisation, centralisation and forced industrialisation of the Communist era," he said.

The project is sponsored by the government tax office, the state property office which is supervising the privatisation of state assets and the National Savings Bank.

They collectively put up 80 million forints (\$800,000).

"If about 10,000 people watch the soap opera right through to the end and if two thousand take the exam at the end of our training course, then we will have achieved our principal goal, that of pulling Hungarians from the intellectual torpor imposed by Communism," Nemeth said.

Sydney Pollack's reluctant success story

By Michael Miller
Reuters

LOS ANGELES — Award-winning film director Sydney Pollack doesn't enjoy directing, actor Sydney Pollack gets bored with acting, and producer Sydney Pollack only produces out of a sense of guilt.

"Don't get me wrong," says the multi-talented Pollack. "I'm not unhappy with my life, I'm very happy, but you asked the question and I tried to give you an honest answer."

By way of explanation, he adds, "I enjoy the fruits of directing. I enjoy being a director. I enjoy the work when it's made. It's the work process itself that I don't enjoy."

"It's enormously demanding, it's anxiety-provoking, it makes you tense, it worries you, and I don't find any of those things enjoyable."

Pollack, whose latest endeavour, Paramount Pictures' highly anticipated *The Firm*, starring Tom Cruise, opens in the U.S. Wednesday, is very selective about which films he makes, and that leaves him with a lot of time on his hands.

"I produce because sometimes it's a long time between pictures, and I feel less guilty if I'm taking two years to find something, or three years to find something, feel less

guilty if I'm working on something," he says.

And acting? "I get a little bored, to be absolutely honest, with acting. It's a long haul. You start at dawn and I'm not the kind of guy to sit in the trailer and wait to be called to the set."

For a man who doesn't appear to enjoy his work — he once said, "I don't value a film I've enjoyed making. If it's good, it's damned hard work" — Pollack has been remarkably successful.

He received Best Picture and Best Director Academy Awards for the 1985 film *Out of Africa*.

In addition his directing credits include such critically acclaimed box office successes as *Absence of Malice*, *The Electric Horseman*, *Three Days of the Condor*, *The Way We Were*, *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* and *Tootsie*.

As a producer and executive producer, his films include *Dead Again*, *The Fabulous Baker Boys* and *White Palace*.

Pollack began as an actor but crossed over to the other side of the camera early in his career to direct, first on television and then for the big screen.

Nevertheless, and mostly against his will, he is called back to act, and has appeared in such films as *Death Becomes Her*, *The Player* and



Sydney Pollack

Tootsie. His last appearance in front of the camera was as the co-star in Woody Allen's *Husbands and Wives*, a role that won him critical acclaim.

"I don't really go looking for acting work. It's not what I do, it's not what I am. But on something like *Husbands and Wives*, where you've got a director like Woody Allen and a script that's that smart and that sharp, well-observed, incisive, it's a pleasure," he says.

The word of mouth in Hollywood is that in *The Firm*, which has been described as an "intellectual thriller," Pollack has another sure-fire success, both financially and critically.

The film, which also stars Jeanne Tripplehorn, who co-starred in the steamy thriller *Basic Instinct*, tells the story of a young law graduate

(Cruise) who unwittingly joins a crooked law firm in Memphis, Tennessee. Tripplehorn plays his wife.

The movie is based on John Grisham's best-selling novel of the same name.

Yet despite everything the proposed film had going for it, Pollack didn't want to make it.

"I said 'no' a couple of times. But I have a very persistent agent who pushed very hard, and I like Cruise a lot," he said.

"At first I read the two screenplays. I liked them but I didn't want to do them, then I read the book, then I met with Tom, then I decided to do it. But then I hired two new writers and began from scratch."

But it was a beginning filled with trepidation and the ghosts of possible failure for Pollack.

"I have a best seller, sold I don't know how many millions of copies. So I've got an army out there that's probably going to beat me to death if I'm not faithful to the book, but there's no way I know how to be completely faithful to the book and make a movie," he tells a group of reporters gathered around a table in a Beverly Hills hotel.

"I've got Tom Cruise and the Grand Cayman Islands and Memphis and Boston and Washington. I've got a picture that's up into the \$40-

45 million area that they're going to spend \$25 million marketing, that's \$70 million just to break even."

"And I'm coming off my last picture (*Havana*) which flopped, didn't make any money, and which people didn't like."

"Now that's a stressful situation."

Known for his minimalist style — "I don't like acting that looks like acting" — in which a glance is worth a thousand gestures, Pollack said his method was inspired by Allen Funt's old television series, *Candid Camera*.

"I talk to the actors about 'Candid Camera', which I think is where the world's greatest acting clues come from," he says.

He describes the famous episode where the engine is taken out of a woman's car which is then rolled down a hill into a petrol station when she complains to a mechanic that she can't get the car started.

"So the guy opens the hood (bonnet) and there's no engine. So what does he do? He doesn't do anything. He doesn't gasp, he doesn't faint, he doesn't do anything."

"That's 10,000 times funnier and more profound than working yourself into a tizzy to have this huge shock reaction to the fact that how could this car be driving when there's no engine in it."

Animation producer challenges Disney monopoly with new film

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If anyone can break Disney's near monopoly on animated features, it could be David Kirschner. He did it with *An American Tail*. Now he's trying again with *Once Upon A Forest*.

"Disney is the Monet of animation. No one does the fables and the classics better than Disney does," the film producer said.

"Those films were the inspiration of my childhood and my adult life as well. But that doesn't mean that there isn't room for other artists in the salon, for young Cezannes of Pissarros to paint a different canvas."

In 1986, Kirschner created *An American Tail*, which amassed the largest first-run gross for an animated feature up to that time. (*Aladdin* and *Beauty And The Beast* have since surpassed it at the box office.)

It was the story of a family of mice who emigrated from Europe to America, based on Kirschner's own grandmother's tales of her experience as an immigrant.

He ran the project by Disney. But "they didn't seem interested in an immigrant mouse," he said, of course referring to Mickey.

Steven Spielberg, also from an immigrant family, eventually shared the post of

executive producer with Kirschner.

"Once Upon A Forest" originated with stories written by Rae Lambert.

"I was moved to tears when I read them," recalled the 38-year-old Kirschner, who joined Hollywood-based Hanna-Barbera Productions Inc. in 1989 as president and chief executive officer, later becoming chairman.

He said they were great bedtime reading for his two daughters and he figured the tales "had the kind of emotions that I had known with the classic Disney films."

It took 20th Century Fox one day to say yes to the project. The budget was \$13 million, one-third or one-half the cost of a Disney animated film.

How could first-rate animation be produced at that cost?

"We used animators from all over the world — the finest from Sweden, Spain, Argentina, Republic of China, America," said Kirschner.

"We tend to think that all the best artists are here. There is a brilliant pool of talent here, but it's also a very limited pool."

"We brought the animators here to work with us, then they went back to their countries, and we went back and forth. It was an exhausting way to do it. But it also helped with our budget constraints."

For *Once Upon A Forest*,

the budget is \$35 million.

The movie centres on three woodland creatures and their badger guru, voiced by Michael Crawford (*Phantom Of The Opera*). They flee together after their homeland is devastated by a toxic spill, and they encounter a number of adventures.

Kirschner grew up in suburban Van Nuys "probably a strange little kid because I wasn't great at sports. I was more interested in the illustrations of N.C. Wyeth and Maxfield Parrish and books by Robert Louis Stevenson and Victor Hugo."

"I started as an illustrator with Jim Henson, illustrating books for *Sesame Street* and *Muppets*," he said. "I don't have the talent of an animator. My work is illustrating."

"I created *Rose Petal World*, which became 14 children's books and some television specials. Then I created *An American Tail*."

Kirschner dealt with a toy of a menacing sort in three *Child's Play* horror movies. His other projects include *Hocus Pocus*, a Halloween fantasy with Bette Midler; a live-action *The Flintstones* with John Goodman; and *The Pagemaster*, an animated feature with voices by Macaulay Culkin, Whoopi Goldberg and Christopher Lloyd.

Kirschner said that making films is the only thing he ever wanted to do.

Nothing personal

By Jean-Claude Elias

When Apple and Radio-Shack (Tandy) introduced the first "personal" computers in the late seventies they knew why they were giving them that name. They were the very first computers a person could use at home or in the office, at an affordable cost.

Until then, only large government organisations, giant corporations, civil and military intelligence and important university research centres could afford a computer. The mainframes, as they were and are still called, remained exclusively reserved to such organisations for three reasons. Their price was prohibitive, operating them required highly trained specialists and they had to be installed in large and sophisticated sites with precision air conditioning and power supply.

The personal computer (PC) came to change all this. Not that it replaced or phased the mainframes out, but it gave each and every one the possibility to understand data processing and take an active part in what is rightfully considered as the revolution of this end of the millennium.

The first PCs were relatively simple to use, though not friendly. Understand that there was not much to learn in order to start operating them but at the same time, the operating procedures were not intuitive nor obvious to the layman. Although the first users were amazed at what they had, looking back at these "dinosaurs" now reminds us how poor their performance was.

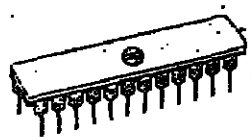
From the hardware point of view, a PC was a simple machine. A screen (or monitor) a basic unit which used to house the built-in keyboard and sometimes a printer. The average operator did not need to know what was inside the unit. The available, ready-made software packages were extremely limited both in number and in performance.

When the IBM-compatible PC was launched in 1983-1984, and the Apple Macintosh later on, things began to change. The keyboard became an independent unit, software became more complicated and options started flowing in.

The user was given the power, the possibility and the headache to choose from a vast array of optional equipment: memory upgrades, disks, tapes, monitors types, mice, external devices, matrix printers, add-on cards, laser printers, and last but not least, new software packages each with numerous versions.

Most of these options were not actually optional! To run certain programmes for instance you needed to upgrade the memory which in turn, required new software to drive it. It may sound absurd, but even designers and manufacturers sometimes were not able to tell or predict what required

chip talk



what in order to properly run.

For instance, to insert photographs or drawings in your data base and visualise them on the monitor you need a software that can do it! Obvious. But you also need a scanner to feed the photos in. You also have to learn how to use a scanner. To enjoy watching your work you need a large, colour monitor. Such a monitor won't work without a special add-on card and special software drivers.

To the credit of Apple is that their 'Mac' system has always had more consistency and user-friendliness than the IBM-compatible. It made life a lot easier on the operator but at the same time confined him or her to the Apple world.

The truly amazing capability of today's PCs is a blessing for all those who have become accustomed to using them in their work and daily life. The power of a modern 80486 PC can handle all the management work of a medium-size company. The trade-off is that such systems can't be considered as 'personal' any more.

The criterion on which the classification is based is not even the price, for the new PCs have gone down in price while going up in performance, nor is it the size, for they are also very compact, all things considered. What makes PCs look more like a space age research lab is the complexity of their software and the physical aspect of some installations.

A home PC set up with a printer, a mouse, a CD-ROM player, a hand-held scanner and a sound card with its speakers is very common these days. Yet it includes a shocking number of external, ugly cables. Such a set up also needs a good number of advanced software drivers and an expert to correctly adjust everything together. Considering that any mistake by the user or a power glitch may ruin this sensitive adjustment thus making you call the experts again, you'll realise how complicated things have become. Where has the "personal" and friendly machine gone?

Soon the computer industry will have to come up either with a replacement for the term "personal" or a new name for the PC user.

The wedding — a purchase of property?

By E. Yaghi

I have learned more from my mistakes than from my successes.

Sir Humphry Davy

Almost a week had now passed since Lana's wedding. She sat on a sponge mattress on the bare tiled floor next to her new mother-in-law and daydreamed about the wedding affair that had seemed like a fantasy when she, the star, had been a beautiful Cinderella dressed in her magical gown for the ball. When the clock struck twelve, Cinderella lost her glass slipper. Would she be able to find it and was that handsome prince she had waltzed with really as caring and charming as he had then seemed?

She had automatically turned off her conscious hearing system as her mother-in-law, horns beginning to show and grow, cozy in endless conversation rambled on and on about any subject which entered her mind. Every once in a while, pretending interest, Lana would nod her head affirmatively and return to her dream.

"What are my little brothers and sisters doing now without me?" she asked herself. "Do they miss me? What are my parents doing? Did dad go to work? Is mom cooking? Will I ever feel as comfortable in my husband's house as I did with my folks and will it ever become my home? Only a few days ago I went to the hairdresser to style my hair for the wedding. After I wore my beautiful wedding dress which now hangs to gather dust in the closet, I sat up on a pedestal waiting for my relatives and husband's relatives to come and escort me to lead the procession."

She looked at her mother-in-law, still going full blast and returned to her dream. "At last I heard footsteps on the stairs and a group of people surged through the door and surrounded me, drumming and clapping and singing as I was swept in a wave to descend the stairs of my house for the last time unwedded. Then the crowd put me in the wedding car which was decorated with pink ribbon and white lace. My brother-in-law drove with the groom beside him. I sat in the back next to my mother-in-law. As our car took off, we were followed by a long line of cars and buses full of singing women and children. We went around the circle a few times and at last we stopped in front of the reception building where the ceremony was to be held. I was helped out of the car and before I knew it, someone had placed a cloak over my head to conceal me and I was ushered quickly into the reception room by my father, uncles, brothers and other male relatives. I was seated alone up on a platform to await the arrival of my groom. While I sat there, some females began singing and dancing and the room began to overflow with women and children. In an adjoining room, the men could be heard singing and dancing to their own music. A little later, the groom was carried in on some young men's shoulders as they also sang and danced around the wedding hall. Every little girl wanted to have the honour of sitting close to me. I put my own small sister next to me on my chair. When the groom

was finally brought to occupy his place beside me, I stood up and greeted him and then we both sat."

Cake and soda was passed around to all the guests and two giant glass mugs three quarters full were offered to the groom and me. We intertwined our arms and presented our glasses to each other. It all seemed very romantic then.

"Lana, what are you thinking of?" her mother-in-law asked as she poked the young bride in the side. "I asked you what you would like to eat for lunch."

"Oh, excuse me, Aunt. I was just thinking."

"Thinking of what, eh?"

"Oh, nothing important, just wondering what my family is doing now."

A grim look of dissatisfaction spread over the ample face of her "aunt" and she spoke imperatively: "This is your family now. Forget about the others. You are one of us. Now, what would you like to eat?"

When her mother-in-law got up slowly and headed for the kitchen, Lana replied: "I'm not really hungry right now. Whatever you want is fine with me."

"She's really getting on my nerves. The kitchen is hers" Lana speculated, "not mine and what kitchen can stand two cooks? The house is so small and I feel uncomfortable. Being married isn't like what I imagined at all."

She then returned to her dream. "After my husband and I came home, my family and my husband's danced until midnight and then everybody left. The following day, my sisters, brothers and parents came to visit and brought some presents. My dowry included gold bracelets, necklaces and earrings to wear. My father bought an iron for me and my mother brought some chocolate. But I still don't feel like I really belong to them anymore. I have no real privacy in this new home and the bathroom is shared by everybody. My husband has no means of support and we must depend on his elderly parents for our subsistence. He has no job or trade and I failed the last two years of high school. The only future for me is to have a ton of babies to please everyone."

"My father-in-law acts as if he purchased some kind of cow and that I am presently the property of my husband and his family. Before the wedding, I was flattered by all the attention my in-laws gave me, but each day after my marriage began, I seem to devalue. It won't be long until everyone starts complaining about me and I will become the typical despised daughter-in-law. It seems that I am married to a stranger and anything I might say could be offensive. We didn't even have a honeymoon to get to know each other. One fancy day I was a bride, the next, I awoke to find my whole life changed completely. Why was mom so eager to get me married? Was she that afraid I would be in the way of my sisters getting married? I hope that this man she picked for me is God-fearing and thoughtful and will lead me through life with kindness and consideration. If not, then I have a long road of misery before me."

Her daydreams were shattered by the yell of her mother-in-law: "Lana, come and help me in the kitchen. Better not let your husband see you idle, we paid too much money for that!"

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

Throughout 58 consecutive years, an American took part in a weight-lifting championship as being a player, coach and in charge of the American federation for this sport.

An ordinary adult breathes 23,040 times per day.

A blind Canadian made a journey in which he covered 6,800 km, chiefly depending upon his tame dog.

An American constructed an exact replica of fifty ships belonging to the U.S. Navy 6th Fleet by using scrap metal coins.

SAY IT IN ARABIC

"Common Phrases"

— I've come for a moment to see you. Jeet lahzah alashan ashoofak.
— It's dark now. Attamat haiwak.
— My time is up. Fat el wakt.
— I've urgent business. Alayya ashgaal mohimma.
— I fear I shall not arrive in time. Khayef mawalsahi fil wakt el-monasib.
— I shall see you again shortly. Hashoofak an kareeb.
— Farewell. God save you! Maassalama, fee amanillah!

COOKING IS FUN

Delicious Pancakes

For four people

Things you need:

- 1 lb (450g) fresh spinach.
- Salt.
- 1 large carrot, peeled and coarsely grated.
- 1 red pepper, halved, deseeded and chopped.
- 4tbs cooked peas.
- 1/3pt (200 ml) thick white sauce.
- 2tbs chopped parsley.
- 3tbs soured cream.
- 30z (75g) grated cheese.
- 8 drops Tabasco Pepper Sauce.
- 8 large pancakes.

TOPPING:

- 1/3 thin white sauce to coat.
- 2tbs double cream.
- 2tbs grated parmesan cheese.
- 2tbs Sprigs of fresh herbs.

THINGS TO DO:

- ★ Tear spinach in pieces, wash and shake dry. Place in pan with salt and pepper to taste, cover and cook in its own juice until just tender. Drain very thoroughly.

★ Fry onion gently in butter and oil for 4 mins. Add carrot and pepper and stir over heat 3 mins. Mix fried vegetables with spinach, peas, thick white sauce, parsley, soured cream, grated cheese and tabasco. Divide filling evenly between each pancake and roll up. Arrange in greased ovenproof dish.

★ To make topping, mix white sauce with double cream and spoon over pancakes. Sprinkle with grated parmesan. Bake in moderately hot oven (190 deg. C., for 15-20 mins.) Garnish with sprigs of fresh herbs.

HUMOUR

A young man met a rather charming girl who informed him that she was a nurse in a hospital.
"I should love to be a patient under your care," he said.
To his surprise she burst out laughing and replied: "You are not likely to be a patient in my hospital, it's a maternity hospital."
Then he burst out laughing and said:
"I have been a patient in such a hospital. I was born in one!"

One Jew said to another, "Ikey, what name are you giving to your new house?"
"Well," replied the other, "we thought about calling it 'The Cloisters'."
"But, Ikey," said the first. "It's not near any church or place like that."
"Oh, no," replied the other, "but it's close to the station, close to the shops and close to the school."

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Foods quiz

1. Name FOUR kinds of lilies used for food.
2. What food adds lime to the body?
3. Is a peanut a nut?
4. What kind of gourd is edible?
5. How long does it take food to go from the mouth to the stomach?
6. Which foods are richest in iodine?
7. Is it correct to say cole slaw or cold slaw?
8. What are the brain foods?

PUZZLES

- (A) Two legs sat upon three legs,
With one leg in his lap:
In comes four legs,
And runs away with one leg;
Up jumps two legs,
Catches up three legs,
And makes him bring back one leg.
Question: Make this much clearer, please!
- (B) Simple Riddles:
1. What mouth has no lips?
2. What crow has no feathers?
3. What shoe is never brushed?
4. What saw never saws?
5. What tongue never talks?

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, July 8

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

Henry and his wife celebrate their 24th anniversary with their daughters in a fancy hotel.

9:10 The Quantum Leap

Sam leaps back into time to the year 1969 to find himself responsible for not letting his friend's wife fall in love with another man as her husband is a POW in Vietnam.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — In Broad Daylight

Starring: Gloria Leachman

People of a small town find no other alternative but to take the law into their own hands when the law fails to protect them.

Friday, July 9

8:30 Head Of The Class

Mr. Moore is a temporary teacher of a class of genius students and he tries to normalise their life.

9:10 Reasonable Doubt

Carl, the private investigator, and his assistant, the prosecutor, work on a case where a sick black young man attempts to murder his neighbour with a pair of scissors.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Peter The Great

After terminating all resistance in Russia and conspiracies of the church and the Kremlin against him, Peter prepares a strong force to

defend his country against Sweden.

Saturday, July 10

8:30 Super Bloopers and New Practical Jokes

This week's edition includes foul ups of Queen Elisabeth and former U.S. President George Bush as well as funny shots for presidents during speeches.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Shoot To Kill

Starring: Sidney Poitier, Tom Berenger and Kristie Alley

A dangerous criminal is chased by an FBI agent who is determined to nail him down no matter what it takes.

Sunday, July 11

8:30 Step By Step

Starring: Suzanne Somers and Patrick Duffy

Despite Carol's strong disapproval, the children agree to take care of their neighbour's dog while they're away only to realise that it is not as easy as they thought it would be.

9:10 Documentary — The Trails Of Life

Tuesday, July 13

8:30 Detectim

9:00 Local Programme

9:30 A Kind Of Magic

10:00 News In English



Maximilian Schell plays Peter the Great Friday at 10:20

10:20 A Mary Higgins Clark suspense film — Double Vision
Starring: Kim Cattrall and Gale Hansen

Finding it hard to believe her identical twin died in a simple accident, Caroline sets her mind on unveiling the truth by every means she can.

Wednesday, July 14

8:30 Night Court

Starring: Harry Anderson and Markie Post

Mac, the court summoner decides to buy a restaurant and his grandfather volunteers to offer his financial assistance. Later, things get more complicated and Mac finds himself threatened by losing the financing.

9:10 Documentary — The Story Of Hollywood

This week's edition sheds light on crime movies which Hollywood gave special attention to during the thir-

ties and continued producing them until today since they turned out to be very profitable.

10:20 Mini-Series — Harry's Game

Harry arrives in Dublin and starts his mission there.

Finding The Way

This week's edition focuses on how animals and insects find their way during the day and at night.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series — Jean Galmond

The trial of Jean Galmond continues telling his life story and the conspiracy of all politicians of the island against him.

Monday, July 12

8:30 And Baby Makes Five

An unexpected visitor comes to the house of Eddy and Jenny, taking her by surprise and joy. But he is given a different welcome by Eddy.

9:10 Thirty Something

New Parents

Starring: Timothy Busfield, Polly Draper and Mel Harris

Garry and Suzanna decide to dedicate their life to their beautiful baby girl Emma. As new parents, they realise that the course of their life has completely changed.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Street Justice

Eddy and Adam are involved in a robbery case.

WHO confident about new monthly injectable contraceptives

By Clare Nullis
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation (WHO) said that millions of women should soon be able to use new once-a-month injectable contraceptives that are as effective as the birth control pill.

The U.N. health agency said the new preparations did not have such severe side-effects as the longer-lasting injectable contraceptive known as Depo Provera.

WHO approved two once-a-month contraceptives, called Cyclofem and Mesigyna, after a three-day meeting of experts to review results of trials involving thousands of women.

"We are very hopeful about the prospects," said WHO advisor John Newton. "This is a front line method that can be used by anybody." He said the contraceptives should become available in many countries "over the next couple of years."

A WHO statement said Cyclofem and Mesigyna, which are both based on a combination of Estrogen and Progesterone, "block pregnancy practically 100 per cent."

They are likely to find favour with many women who worry about becoming pregnant after forgetting to take the birth control pill every day.

The main advantage over Depo Provera, which is injected every three months, is that the new preparations do not cause major disruptions to the menstrual cycle. Other side-effects like weight gain are also said to be less marked.

Although in use in 90 countries, Depo Provera had a question mark over its safety for years. Earlier this week, a WHO committee said it did not increase risks of breast or cervical cancer. The United States recently approved its use as a birth control method after safety checks.

AIDS is second-leading killer of young men in U.S.

ATLANTA (R) — AIDS has moved ahead of heart disease and cancer to become the second leading killer of young men in the United States, a U.S. government health agency has reported.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also said AIDS has become the leading cause of death among young Cuban and Puerto Rican men in the United States and for the first time has become a leading killer of a group of women — those 25 to 44 of Puerto Rican descent.

In its weekly report, the Atlanta-based CDC said AIDS is closing in rapidly on unintentional injuries such as car crashes as the leading cause of death in men age 25 to 44.

In a study published last month in the Journal of the American Medical Association, CDC reported that AIDS was the leading killer of young men in 64 American cities and five states.

The health agency said that in 1991, the most recent year for which data are available, AIDS killed young black men at three times the rate of whites. Among Hispanics, the death rate was twice that for whites.

Dr. Peter Drotman, assistant director of public health in the agency's AIDS Division, said CDC does not know whether the death rate among ethnic minorities reflects significantly higher infection rates, lack of access to health care, or both.

CDC noted that most leading causes of death among both young men and young women remained relatively stable during 1990 and 1991, but AIDS-related deaths rose dramatically over the period.

In fact, among women, it appears that AIDS will move from the sixth-leading cause of death in 1990 to fourth in 1991, surpassing suicides and homicides and ranking behind only cancer, unintentional injuries and heart disease.

Scientists devise early test for AIDS-related brain infection

LONDON (AP) — A new blood test may help predict which AIDS patients are likely to get a brain infection from toxoplasmosis, according to a very small, preliminary French study.

If large studies confirm these results, the blood test could be used to track the progress of the illness or even catch the disease months before symptoms strike, writes Dr. Jean Pierre Vendrell, at the Institute of Biology in Montpellier, France.

The study is in the July 3 issue of the Lancet, a medical journal.

Dr. Philippa Easterbrook, an AIDS specialist at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in London, said she is "intrigued" by the French team's novel approach.

"There's no doubt a current major goal in the management of HIV patients is trying to predict who are the ones likely to get particular opportunistic infections," Dr. Easterbrook said, adding that after pneumonia, toxoplasmosis is the most common.

Currently, the only way to definitively diagnose brain infection with toxoplasmosis is to remove a tiny section of the brain and search for the organism.

Patients with AIDS may suffer symptoms of brain disease, but not have toxoplasmosis. It is difficult without the biopsy to determine whether infection or nerve damage is causing the symptoms.

Toxoplasmosis, a common infection, can lurk for years in people without making them sick. It can flourish and trigger severe illness and brain disease in patients with weak immune systems, such as those with AIDS.

Japan health guru rails at fat food, free trade

By Masaru Sato
Reuters

TOKYO — Michio Kushi could justly complain about being born in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Japan's most prominent health food guru finds only a small audience for his ideal diet of grain, vegetable and seaweed — no meat or dairy products — in a country where young people eagerly devour pizzas and hamburgers.

So the 67-year-old Kushi, skinny and energetic and with a good head of hair, is forced to live in Massachusetts on the U.S. east coast, where Americans reared on a diet of fried potatoes, milk and steak are ready to listen.

Little known in their homeland, Mr. Kushi and his wife Tomoko founded and lead a group called One Peaceful World, a macrobiotics movement he believes will cure the human race of heart disease, stomach ailments and skin rashes.

The group has 300 teachers of macrobiotics worldwide.

What Mr. Kushi proposes is close to what Japanese ate for centuries until the mass import of Western food after 1945 — low fat, a lot of grains, vegetables and seaweed. Milk and dairy products are banned. Animal fat is discouraged.

Fully organic and indigenous food is ideal but hard to get, particularly in Japan, with lax regulations on labelling.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

MDs
By Harvey Chew

ACROSS

1 TV system

24 — moss

10 Capacitance unit

40 Self-evident statements

67 Before short or socks

88 Long steps

11 Verbs for a bout

43 Balm, for one

51 Homorous play

89 Declared

20 Draft status

47 Greek letter

70 Miles or Pardon

93 Head nasty

21 — grab

49 Meantime

94 Cause enraging

99 Expletive

22 Reduced in price

50 Endure

100 Coffee type

104 Famed boundary line

23 Six-pointed star

52 Streetcar

73 Decoration

107 Wasp

24 Noisy drug for arthritis

53 Land measure

79 Nautical term

110 First person

25 —

54 Superlative

80 Lower in rank

111 Linda Lavin role

44 Rejoice

71 Jabber

95 Domicile

45 —

72 Drama

101 Gypsy name

46 —

73 Art of composing poems

102 Gypsy name

48 —

74 Islamic messian

103 Test answer

49 —

75 Overseas

104 Rubber tree

50 —

76 —

105 —

51 —

77 —

106 —

Japan is seven to eight years behind the United States. Eating out in Japan is a problem because of the high sugar content.

There he was inspired by thinkers like Albert Einstein and Thomas Mann.

"I learnt from them that humans completely failed after all these religions and revolutions and utopian beliefs. I realised that a world government would fail if people were not healthy (but were) fighting all the time," Mr. Kushi recalled.

Another figure who influenced Mr. Kushi was the founder of macrobiotics, George Osawa, who, basing his theories on traditional Chinese medicines, worked out what he thought was a balanced diet in 1928.

But Osawa, born 100 years ago this year, received a cool response from the Japanese. So, like Mr. Kushi, he went abroad, to France, where his philosophy found a willing audience.

After finishing his studies in New York and travelling in Europe, Mr. Kushi settled in the United States in the 1950s.

Sick people should be strict about cutting down on animal fat and dairy products, but relatively healthy people can eat meat and fish in social situations, Mr. Kushi said.

"If you want to paint very sensitive pictures, you should eat fresh vegetables and fruits. But an aggressive businessman should add some animal fat," he added.

"Japan is seven to eight years behind the United States. Eating out in Japan is a problem because of the high sugar content," he said.

"Americans are cutting back on their meat consumption and trying to export the excess to Japan. Japan should impose high taxes so that consumers cannot buy meat daily," he said.

Mr. Kushi blames high dependence on meat-eating for the growing incidents of heart disease and allergies and increase in violence and family breakdowns in the world.

When he returns to Japan, as he does twice a year, he is enraged by what he sees — Japanese cuisine containing more and more sugar and, for the first time in the country's history, obese children.

"Japanese consumers should demand more non-pesticide vegetables and additive-free farm and marine products," he told Reuters.

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Russia and Kazakhstan battle over Baikonur cosmodrome

By David Ljunggren
Reuter

BAIKONUR COSMODROME. Kazakhstan — Relieved Russian and Kazakh officials applauded as the Soyuz rocket climbed into the evening sky, belching flames and smoke.

The launch of the latest joint Russian-French mission last week was another triumph for the huge cosmodrome situated in the heart of the sweltering Kazakh steppe.

But the future of Baikonur and the former Soviet Union's space programme is threatened by a bitter argument between Russia and Kazakhstan over who controls the cosmodrome.

"This is a unique place which we cannot lose," Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told officials before the launch. At issue is who should control the base, which for decades was the pivot of the former Soviet Union's space programme but is now in newly-independent Kazakhstan.

While the two sides argue, highly-trained specialists who oversee the launches are gradually leaving the sun-baked steppe to find better jobs elsewhere.

Baikonur is run by the former Soviet Union's space forces and Moscow wants the cosmodrome to be turned into a Russian military base which would permit commercial launches.

"This is a military base and there are some things which have to be kept secret. That would not be possible if it were thrown open to everyone," said Colonel Sergei Gorbunov, head of the space forces' press centre.

Other Russian officers are more blunt.

"Let's face it — we built this place from scratch. The Kazakhs are a bunch of peasants and wouldn't have a hope of running it properly," one said candidly. But Kazakhstan says it should derive more benefit from the base and wants to turn it into a free economic zone to attract foreign investment or make it a joint-stock company.

The two sides held talks before the launch which Kazakh officials said produced "sharp differences of view."

An adviser to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said the Russian stand was "unacceptable not only for Kazakhstan, where it is located, but also for other Commonwealth members who run their own space programmes."

The site would "be controlled by Kazakhstan, and other countries will be allowed to carry out certain activities there," he said.

But Moscow, now bearing the brunt of the hideously expensive space programme, is unlikely to agree.

The two sides signed a deal in February to co-finance this year's running costs of the cosmodrome, which were put at 32 billion roubles (\$32 million). Kazakh officials say Russia is lagging far behind with its payments.

Apart from the gradual exodus of personnel, uncertainty over the space programme's future has led to violence at Baikonur.

Kazakh military construction workers at the base went on the rampage in June to complain about low wages, setting fire to offices and barracks and looting

shops and warehouses.

Last year the units mutinied over living conditions, burning down buildings and ransacking stores. Four people were killed.

In February this year, about 20 Russian soldiers at the cosmodrome deserted in protest over working conditions. A local newspaper said they complained they were being forced to work too hard to make up for under-manning.

"A lot of people are leaving. It's linked to money and the perceived lack of future," said Colonel Vladimir Dubinin, deputy head of the base's Centre for Testing and Use of Space Systems.

"We can keep going for perhaps two years at this rate and then there will be critical problems."

Officials were markedly reluctant to discuss exact figures but said around 15 per cent of specialists had left so far.

Moscow has suggested it pays for the cosmodrome while Kazakhstan sharply boosts investment in the nearby town of Leninsk, which serves Baikonur.

Leninsk Mayor Vitaly Brynkin said 21,000 people had left since the collapse of the Soviet Union, cutting the population to just over 80,000.

He wants to pour more money into the grim dust-blown town, where the water is heavily polluted by pesticides, crime is rising fast and attractions appear few and far between.

Locals tell hungry visitors there is only one restaurant where they stand a decent chance of avoiding food poisoning. The quality of the food in the establishment is quite lamentable.

"I'm getting out of here as soon

as I can," said one officer sheltering from the blazing sun. "Things here were bad enough when we felt our work was worthwhile, but now it's unbearable."

Russian officials say budget cuts have reduced security at the base to dangerously low levels and point to huge buildings across the site where there is not a single guard to be seen.

"People are stealing copper cables like mad from the outer areas but we're all right here so

far," said Col. Dubinin, standing beside one of the major launch pads.

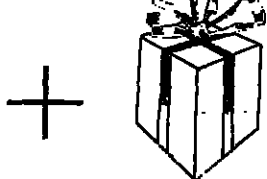
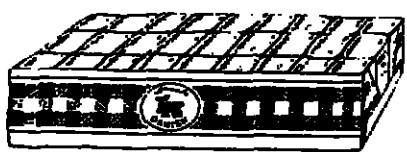
Kazakh officials are confident they hold some of the best cards. The only other cosmodrome in the former Soviet Union is at Plesetsk in northern Russia, which is unsuitable for launching manned flights.

"I don't think this cosmodrome will collapse — Russia just wouldn't allow it," said Mr. Brynkin.



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Gastronomic capital has few local specialties

By Suzy Patterson
The Associated Press

PARIS — Is there such a thing as a local cuisine in Paris, the self-proclaimed world capital of gastronomy?

Well, there are champignons de Paris, or "Paris mushrooms", but they are just ordinary white-capped mushrooms, grown outside the city.

How about boudin de Paris, a unique kind of blood sausage made with onions, or hure de porc a la parisienne, a kind of pate made from pig's head? Those traditional specialties can still be found, but food experts say they are rare.

Such questions are treated in a book, published by Albin Michel in April, called "Ile de France: produits de terroir et recettes

traditionnelles." The book, co-sponsored by the National Council of Culinary Arts and the Ile de France Council, devotes itself to the region around the capital.

"Through our inventories, history and recipes, we're trying to preserve and revive interest in traditional taste, foods and dishes," said Alain Senderens, a three-star chef who heads the culinary council.

The volume is the second in an encyclopedic series intended to catalogue France's regional food heritage. The first, published last fall, covered northern France. Regions still to be examined include Burgundy, the Loire Valley and the Charentes.

As Paris has become gastronomically multiregional and international, some traditional foods have disappeared or been dis-

placed. "Vegetables, fabulous vegetables, were what the Ile de France region was known for," said Philip Hyman, an American food historian.

Mr. Hyman and his wife, Mary, are researching and writing much of the historical material for the series, which is intended as an encyclopedia of contemporary and traditional French food.

"The great, fat, white Argenteuil asparagus can hardly be grown there any more," Mr. Hyman said. "That area to the west of Paris has turned land into low-cost housing. But now these asparagus are grown elsewhere nearby."

According to the Hymans' research, the white asparagus spears were cultivated in the 1920s and 1930s to reach gargon-

nan proportions of nearly 10 pounds each. By embracing such popular fare as "jambon de Paris," or boned Paris-style ham, and including many recipes, the Ile de France book reaches out to those who would like to savor traditional tastes.

"Paris and the Ile de France are so cosmopolitan now that we had to search around for old, forgotten recipes," said Celine Vence, who prepared the recipes for the book with Versailles Chef Gerard Vie.

They found delicious ideas, some ancient but others still on restaurant menus.

"Friture des guisettes des bords de Marne et de Seine" may sound like fancy gastronomy, but is simply fried baby whitebait.



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Financial flows to developing countries hit record \$176b in '92

PARIS (R) — Financial flows to developing countries jumped 23 per cent in 1992 to a record \$176 billion as a result of an explosion in bank lending, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Tuesday.

With direct investment also rising sharply, private money flows reached \$99.8 billion and exceeded official aid for the first time since 1983, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) said in an annual report.

The panel welcomed the increase, which it said reflected positive economic and political trends in developing countries. But it cautioned that the boom might not be sustainable and said that, in any case, only a few better-off developing countries were benefiting from the sudden interest.

"The ability of the vast number of the poorer developing countries to attract external resources, particularly private flows, is little changed. For them, official development finance remains the backbone of resource provision," the DAC said.

Here, too, the picture was encouraging, DAC Chairman Alexander Love told a news conference.

Despite budget constraints, the

volume of grants and soft loans rose 1.1 per cent in real terms to \$60.8 billion, which Mr. Love described as "a positive response to continuing challenges in developing countries."

About half of the rich nations that make up the DAC boosted their official development assistance in 1992, with Switzerland, Spain, Sweden, Denmark and Italy all reporting big increases.

The United States was the biggest donor in money terms, providing \$11.7 billion, followed by Japan \$11.1 billion, France with \$8.3 billion and Germany with \$7.6 billion.

But for the 21 DAC members as a whole, the volume of aid was unchanged from 1991 at 0.33 per cent of gross national product — well short of the international target of 0.7 per cent and still below the 0.34 per cent average recorded between 1979 and 1988.

Finland, caught in a deep recession, reduced its aid for the first time in 15 years, by 23.9 per cent.

Among big donors, Japan cut back by 3.8 per cent, Britain by 4.0 per cent and Germany by 2.1 per cent, the report said.

It said the expansion of private flows in 1992 was broad based, with all its components at record levels.

creased to \$40 billion from 11 billion. Short-term lending accounted for over half the rise.

As a result, the total debt burden of developing countries grew three per cent in 1992 to \$1.93 billion, the OECD said. The cost of servicing the debt was unchanged at about \$150 billion.

Mr. Love said he was confident there would not be a repeat of the Latin American debt crisis of the early 1980s, when a string of countries buckled under the burden of heavy bank debts and were forced to halt payments.

Countries such as Mexico were in a much better position today because they had reformed their economies and embarked on privatisation. But Mr. Love said it would be necessary to keep a watch out for an excessive build-up of debt.

Proceeds from bond issues rose \$1.2 billion to \$14.2 billion in 1992 and other private flows, including portfolio investment, increased to \$9.5 billion from \$6.6 billion.

Foreign direct investment grew by over \$4 billion to nearly \$31 billion, an increase that the OECD was particularly notable when set against the falling trend in total outward investment by rich industrial countries.

But the beneficiaries were few and far between — Mexico, Bra-

zil and Argentina in Latin America, India, China and Indonesia in Asia and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the Mideast.

"As a group, the low-income countries (apart from India or China) got some additional bank lending, but little other private finance, while private flows to the poorest developing countries as well as to Africa have now reached negative levels," the report said.

ECO leaders agree to form bank, airline

ISTANBUL (R) — Leaders of 10 Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) nations agreed Wednesday to form a bank to help finance trade and investment in a huge region stretching from Europe to China. They also agreed to establish a regional airline, a shipping company and a reinsurance firm, and said there would be cooperation in transport and tourism.

In a joint communiqué at the end of a two-day summit, they

said the ECO trade and investment bank would be established in Istanbul to finance trade and investments in member countries. The airline and shipping company would be based in Iran and the reinsurance company in Pakistan.

Details of the bank, the transport companies and the reinsurance firm would be discussed at a foreign ministers' meeting in Tehran in January, Pakistani officials said.

Gold price rises to \$397 an ounce

LONDON (AFP) — A surge of buying by speculators and investors maintained upward pressure on the prices of precious metals here Wednesday and the price of gold reached \$397.25 an ounce. This was the highest price since the Gulf war in January 1991 and took the increase so far this week to more than \$10.

The price had closed here Tuesday at \$391.90 an ounce, and analysts said that the underlying

factor was an easing of interest rates in Europe and fears that inflation in Europe might rise.

The price of silver held above \$5 an ounce and was being quoted at \$5.20 in trading during the morning. This has the highest price since May 1990 and compared with \$5.09 at the close Tuesday.

The price of platinum rose to \$408.75 an ounce from \$404.25 Tuesday to reach the highest point since January 1991.

Jordan's steps in labour field highlighted

AMMAN — Ali Dajani, advisor at the Amman Chamber of Industry, has addressed the 89th session of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June. Mr. Dajani spoke on behalf of employers within the tripartite Jordan delegation to the conference composed of representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Federation of Chambers and Commerce, and the Federation of Jordan's Labour Unions.

Following is Mr. Dajani's address:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate! On behalf of the employers of Jordan, represented by the Chamber of Industry of Amman, and on my own behalf, I have the honour of congratulating the president on his election to the chair of the 89th session of the International Labour Conference, a mark of the esteem in which he is held internationally, given his special position in the Arab World, his wide experience in labour matters and in vocational training, and the reputation he enjoys in the Arab Republic of Egypt, which has made considerable progress in economic, social and scientific development.

The Arab Labour Organisation also works alongside its Arab member countries in developing social concepts of work and in applying them in such a way as to achieve social stability and hence peace, security and regional and international cooperation.

We have full confidence in the ability of the president of this session of the conference which will guarantee its success and lay the basis for the success for future sessions.

I should like to congratulate Mr. Hansenne on his sterling work on behalf of the organisation and on his unanimous election for a second term of office. We were extremely pleased when he visited us in the Chamber of Industry in Amman, where he was welcomed by the chairman, the members and many employers. Important discussions took place on the organisation's work on behalf of the development of labour and of production capacities. We decided to set up a special unit equipped with ILO publications, documents and reports as reference material for those interested in labour problems and the organisation's efforts in that area.

General consciousness-raising and instruction regarding employment are important starting points for the establishment of equitable systems and concepts applicable to the social compo-

nent of economic development and for the interlinking of economic and social goals, so that economic development redounds to the benefit of all.

This would lay the basis for social reform involving mother and child protection, aid and training facilities for the handicapped, and protection of all human beings against poverty and unemployment.

I should like to reaffirm our commitment to the principle of tripartite dialogue between the Ministry of Labour, trade unions and employers' associations. The upshot of such cooperation has been the establishment of an institute of social security and a vocational training institute. Recently, an agreement was concluded on a review of labour legislation to make it more clear and to ensure that it covers the rights and duties of workers and employers.

This new legislation contains, inter alia, a provision requiring the employment of a certain percentage of handicapped persons in enterprises and provides for an increase in maternity leave from 42 to 70 days.

The reports of the director-general "Social Insurance and Social Protection" expresses profound humanitarian feeling. It deals with fundamental concepts that are in line with the fun-

damental beliefs of Islam, which inter alia provide for an alms tax (Zakat) which confirms the right of all workers or others in need, to assistance without distinction on grounds of race, sex, or religion or identity. Human compassion is a duty. Nonetheless, expanding this concept would, I believe depend on economic capacity and the rate of economic growth as well as employment possibilities.

As employers, in Jordan we are cooperating with official authorities in order to focus initiatives in the field of investment and at the same time to improve the level of vocational training and introduce new elements into education and training, to complement traditional forms. We are trying to encourage self-employment as a way of fighting unemployment.

We also encourage small and medium-sized enterprises, especially those which supply existing industries. The goals and objectives are clear, but achieving them is a question of time and our economic and financial resources.

In point of fact, this depends on our capacity to shoulder the burden of taxes, which is particularly high in Jordan. They are perhaps the highest of all developing countries, but we are

not against this because the government needs this income to supplement its expenditure and in particular social protection.

The concept of social security is reaching all levels and we are proud to say that people in Jordan have voluntarily contributed to the creation of hospitals and to the establishment of a centre to treat cancer patients. We were able, in a few months, to collect 70 per cent of the amount needed which initially amounted to 12 million dinars.

This is proof of what we mean by compassion.

Under the guidance of His Majesty King Hussein, we are entering a new era of hope based on democracy and we are, undergoing consultations in order to

strengthen the International Bill of Human Rights, consolidate pluralism and respect for the opinions of others, because the basic element in all this is man as the true wealth of people.

The individual that assumes his responsibilities is a man who constructs, produces and who gives the fruit of his labour for the sake of social protection.

We believe that it is also indispensable to ensure and cover the needs of the needy, the elderly, the disabled and the sick. The twenty-first century must concentrate on people throughout the world, to preserve their dignity and guarantee fulfilment of their needs and safety.

We hope that this will be the slogan of organisation when it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

AIR FRANCE  

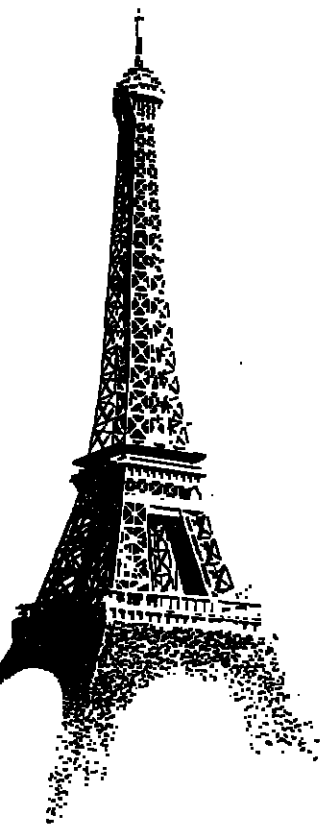
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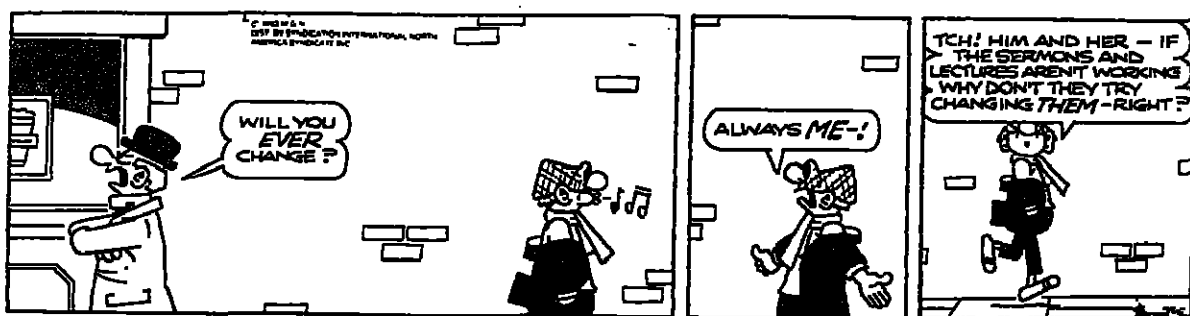
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FORECAST FOR THURSDAY JULY 8, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Anything you had planned to make your surroundings more lovely and comfortable can easily be accomplished today but don't forget to deal with more major items on your agenda that you're thinking of postponing.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can get others to go along with your goals if you give them an understanding smile after which delays at some duties require use of much patience.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make sure you are especially pleasant with members of your household today and you sidestep some friction but later a pleasure you anticipate is delayed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can draw usual comrades much closer to you now by giving praise for their achievements while later a verbose associate should be avoided.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Show your ability to build up energy tonight after a day spent at building for yourself a greater financial security for years to come.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make your plans in the morning for the amusements and recreation that you most enjoy and later steer clear of a money matter that is a scheme.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You certainly need to be care-

ful to do nothing to upset those who dwell beneath your roof in the evening after a day making big plans for the future.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can turn an interesting acquaintance into a loyal friend in the morning by concentrating on pleasing that individual while tonight avoid fussing petty things.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Do what you know will please those persons in the same vocation as yourself in outside world and reap benefits, tonight a newcomer can give you a bad time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind making headway in your character development can be attained now but tonight a public manner can cause you distress.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Consider well the various wishes your attachment has stated would be welcome and do what you can to get them today, tonight keep private plans a secret.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more openminded to accept the suggestions made by one who has been very successful in the outside world but tonight be economical in your pleasures.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your love for beauty should be more evident about you so don't hesitate to spend a little more to accomplish this purpose, tonight avoid a yacking ally.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY JULY 9, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't waste any time today on the dreary or unimportant. Utilize the exceptionally excellent four Moon aspects to thrust forward with those higher-ups who you know can be helpful in the framework of your capabilities.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You see ways you can go along with what your family desires and that can put you in a good condition where any duties facing you may be concerned.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You see the best outlet by which you can take your special talent to those who are able to put it across where it can bring you the gain.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have a good day to take a good clear look at your residence and to see what needs to be done to make life happier there and then put in motion.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some very good ideas how best to use your abilities to gain the conditions in the outside world that appeals to you through usual allies.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have big ideas about having the good things of life but they need to be reduced to a working level and this is your day to make them a reality.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can take what ideas you

have to one who is well versed in putting ideas and articles across and get good advice in whatever your own desires.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider well those intimate urges that you now have and the best manner in which you can get them to become an actual part of your everyday living.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think what acquaintances are the most selective in their judgment you know and seek from them suggestions what you can do to improve personal success.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is that day to consider all phases and facets of your present vocational activities and what you can do to enhance your success with them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You like to work out a plan of action that has every angle thoughtfully considered and this is your day to do just this with a new venture.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A very good day for you to busy yourself with the practical aspects of your practical affairs and query a successful businessperson for answers.

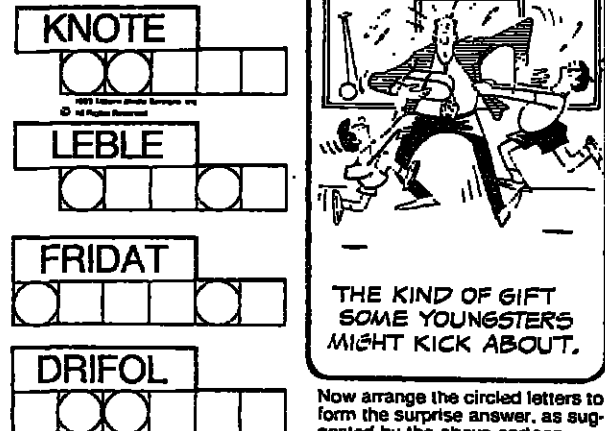
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You would be wise to engage in a considerable conversation with a discriminating associate who has good ideas you need for an important project.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

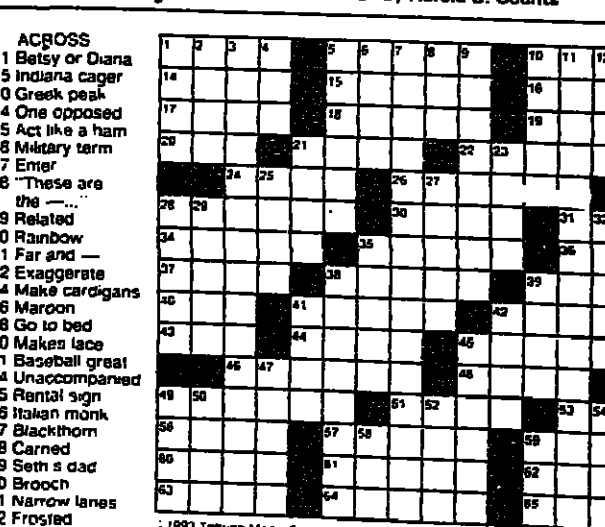
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: A

Saturday's Jumbles: NOOSE NICE TARTAR FERVOR
Answer: The part of the book the podiatrist liked best—THE FOOTNOTES

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts



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7 is direct
8 Hot time in Paris
9 Had recourse for help
10 Of grain
11 Impending disaster
12 Auctioneer's word
13 Actor Ray Nighogale
14 Cable
15 Immense
16 Tear
17 Contes
18 Fates
19 Miss — of Dallas
20 Outline
21 Circus employee
22 Clan symbol
23 Charms
24 " — wet that...
25 Young salmon
26 Festive

45 Loving touch
46 Listens
47 Parapel
48 Money premium
49 High or hole beginning

54 " — She Sweet?
55 Baby's first word, maybe
56 In the past
57 Period of time

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Fighting rages as Bosnian Muslims face more pressure

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian rivals fought across swathes of territory Wednesday as Muslims faced growing pressure from all sides. A sign up to a three-way split of a former Yugoslav republic.

"In our areas of operation we are seeing fighting everywhere," Commander Barry Frewer, spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia, said in Sarajevo.

United Nations peace envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg was in the Croatian capital Zagreb Wednesday in a new round of shuttle diplomacy to persuade the three warring parties in Bosnia to agree to the plan to end 15 months of civil war.

He will be joined by co-mediator Lord Owen, who Tuesday urged the Muslims to talk directly to the Serbs and Croats about their joint plan for a three-sided Bosnian confederation along ethnic lines.

Lord Owen and Mr. Stoltenberg were due to go on to Belgrade to meet Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

The new UNPROFOR commander for former Yugoslavia, French General Jean Cot, arrived in Belgrade to present his credentials to the Yugoslav authorities.

Pressure was also directed on the Muslims from Bosnian Serb

leader Radovan Karadzic, who threatened Tuesday to seek international recognition for his republic within its present borders if the Muslims rejected the confederal plan.

Bosnia's Serbs, aided by a vast military arsenal left by the former Serbian-led Yugoslav army, have seized 70 per cent of the former Yugoslav republic in 15 months of civil war.

In Helsinki, the European security conference (CSCE) urged Yugoslavia to reverse its refusal to extend the mandate of CSCE human rights observer missions. Yugoslavia is protesting against its continued suspension from the CSCE.

A CSCE official said the decision would affect 20 CSCE international staff in Belgrade and the Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina regions of Serbia.

Fighting was reported in north, central and southern Bosnia as the three factions battled for territory with the possibility of an agreement in sight.

The food situation in the northern Muslim stronghold of Tuzla was apparently becoming critical as hungry civilians attempted to storm U.N. aid stores on two occasions, Maj. Frewer said.

He said 300 civilians attempted to storm and loot a U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees warehouse in the Tuzla suburb of Lukavac Monday, forcing U.N. peacekeepers to fire 20 warning shots into the air and disperse the crowd. "There was a report Tuesday that 100 civilians gathered and tried the same again," Maj. Frewer said.

Croatian radio said Croat forces were holding their positions Wednesday morning after a fierce Muslim attack on Kiseljak, near Sarajevo, which killed 15 people and wounded 15 others Tuesday.

Maj. Frewer described the situation in Kiseljak and nearby Visoko as "very difficult".

He reported mortar attacks and heavy fighting in Gornji Vakuf Tuesday, increased combat operations in the Lasva Valley, Novi Travnik and Fojnica and sporadic fighting around Vitez, the British UNPROFOR battalion base in central Bosnia.

Maj. Frewer reported continued Muslim and Croat fighting and shelling around mostar and street combat in Stolac.

The Croatian News Agency (HINA) said five Croat soldiers were wounded and several Muslim soldiers killed and wounded in the heavy overnight fighting in Mostar.



A Bosnian Croat fighter fires at a Bosnian army position on the urban front of Mostar (AFP photo)

Bosnian radio said Serbs fired 2,000 shells in 24 hours on Trnovo, apparently a new flashpoint in central Bosnia 30 kilometres east of Sarajevo.

Bosnian radio said two people were killed and two wounded in heavy shelling of Zavidovici in the northern tip of central Bosnia Tuesday and accused the Serbs and Croats of joint artillery attacks on nearby Maglaj.

Shevardnadze: Abkhazia conflict is worsening

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze said Wednesday that war between his countrymen and rebels in the breakaway region of Abkhazia was going into its "most violent phase".

Hundreds of people have died since Georgia sent troops to the Black Sea region last August to suppress nationalist demands for more autonomy. Abkhazians now hold almost all the territory except the capital Sukhumi and the town of Ochamchira.

Mr. Shevardnadze, a former Soviet foreign minister, declared martial law in Abkhazia Tuesday, handing over rule of the seething province to his army after a major rebel assault on Sukhumi and days of intense fighting.

"Today the whole of Georgia must live by the laws of war and martial law in Abkhazia must be imposed unconditionally," he told a regional government meeting in Sukhumi.

"I don't want to be understood as saying mass shootings and punishment must become the order of the day. But war is war and it has its own laws," he added.

Military rule came into force for an initial two-month period from 10 p.m. (1800 GMT) Tuesday. The move has formally to be approved by the Georgian parliament.

Mr. Shevardnadze said the rebels, based at Gudauta further up the Black Sea coast, intended to destroy Sukhumi.

ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Georgian sources as saying fighting was intensifying along the Gumista River near the Sukhumi, where Abkhazian forces were building up amid heavy shooting. Sukhumi had been fired on overnight, it said.

Abkhazians, who make up only 17 per cent of the population of the province, are backed by Muslim mercenaries from the Caucasus and, according to Georgia, by maverick Russian army units. Moscow denies this charge.

Mr. Shevardnadze's move looked set to put him on a collision course with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who on July 4 warned Georgia and the rebels they must sign a peace pact soon or face "harsh" economic pressure from Moscow.

Mr. Kozyrev told Commonwealth Television the outlines of a peace deal had been sketched at Russian-brokered talks in Moscow.

The deal called for implementation of a ceasefire and recognition of Abkhazian autonomy, backed by strong guarantees, within "the territorial integrity of Georgia".

But the Georgian Foreign Ministry has since shrugged off Monday's threat, saying the former Soviet republic was in any case receiving virtually nothing from Russia.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali last week proposed 50 U.N. military observers be deployed in Georgia in the Sukhumi and Ochamchira districts of Abkhazia, the first peacekeeping venture in the former Soviet Union.

But Sir David Hannay of Britain, this month's Security Council president, said Wednesday he had been informed the contingent would not be deployed until after a ceasefire was established.

Council sources said Russia supported deployment of the military observers, who are unarmed or lightly armed officers, fearing the fighting might otherwise get out of control.

Man leaves bank with somebody else's \$27,000

DUBAI (R) — A unidentified Indian left a bank in Dubai with 100,000 dirhams (\$27,000) in a hurry. The cashier soon found out why. The money belonged to the man behind him in the queue. "A man who works in a jewellery shop came to the bank with a check for 100,000 dirhams (\$27,000) to cash, when the cashier called for the owner of the check to come forward a man did, took the money and left," Al-Itihad newspaper quoted a bank official as saying. "When the owner of the second man in the queue came he asked about his 100,000 dirhams...the cashier and the customer realised the trick and ran after the man who cashed the money, but he had escaped," it said.

Mel Gibson accepts apology from tabloid

LONDON (AP) — Actor Mel Gibson accepted a public apology for a newspaper article that suggested he criticised other top stars for accepting sexually explicit roles, his lawyer said. The Daily Express published a story in April headlined Hollywood's Shame which claimed Gibson told reporters that movie stars such as Madonna, Sharon Stone, Kim Basinger and Richard Gere "are just like porn stars" because they accepted "obscene" roles. Gibson's lawyer, Michael Skrelin, told the high court that the Australian actor did not make those remarks or any like them. Gibson was not in court to hear Express newspapers apologise and agree to pay his legal costs.

Michelangelo drawing gets record price at auction

LONDON (AP) — The Getty Museum paid \$4.18 million (\$6.27 million) for a Michelangelo drawing not seen in public for more than 150 years. Christie's auction house said. The price, a world record for a drawing by an old master, includes \$3.8 million (\$5.7 million) for the painting. The rest is commission. The drawing, called Holy Family With The Infant Baptist On The Rest On The Flight Into Egypt, was sold by a private collector, whose name was not made public. Christie's said the drawing bought by the Malibu, California, museum is "one of the most important drawings to appear at auction in the modern era." The chalk and ink drawing depicts the meeting of the infant John the Baptist, accompanied by two angels, meeting the infant Jesus along with Mary and Joseph on the flight from Herod's persecution. The meeting was a favourite image in Florentine art. "It's a great drawing by one of the great artists. I think it's a very moving image," said Dr. George Goldner, curator of drawings at the Getty Museum. "It will be arguably one of the most important drawings in our collection. There are very few by this artist in the whole of the United States," he said.

Anti-G7 group blamed for Japan blasts

TOKYO (R) — At least five projectiles hit a U.S. army base in Japan Wednesday and a home-made bomb exploded in a public building under construction in attacks police blamed on leftists protesting at the Tokyo summit.

No one was hurt in either incident, which occurred early Wednesday — just a few hours before the start of the meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) top industrial powers.

A statement by the U.S. army in Japan said unknown people launched five to six projectiles into Camp Zama, southwest of Tokyo, but that no loss of life, injury or damage occurred.

About one hour beforehand, a crude bomb exploded in an incomplete building in Osaka, western Japan, that is to house the International Centre for Environmental Technology.

Damage was limited to broken window panes, Japanese police said.

Police said they suspected militant radicals opposed to the summit were behind the two attacks.

A Japanese police officer at Zama said his men had discovered some metal fragments and a large hole in the ground at the entrance to the U.S. base after the impact of what appeared to be a crude smoke bomb.

"It's enough to indicate that radicals protesting the summit could have been involved," he said in a telephone interview.

A small militant group, the Kakurokyo (Revolutionary Workers), claimed responsibility for a bombed attack last week on another U.S. base at Yokota, near Tokyo.

It said the incident was just the

first in a series it was planning to disrupt the gathering of leaders of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan.

Japanese authorities have clamped a huge security operation on the capital and around other possible terrorist targets for the summit. Some 36,000 police are on top alert.

The government has never forgotten the coup leftists achieved at the last Tokyo G7 summit, in 1986, when they fired four rockets just over the heads of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other assembled dignitaries.

The projectiles "fell" four kilometres and missed the VIP gathering by a mere 50 metres. No one was hurt.

Nigerian army moves in to quell Lagos protests

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government deployed army tanks at key flashpoints in Lagos Wednesday to quell gangs of marauding youths in fresh outbreaks of political violence in the sprawling city.

Residents reported tanks and other armour in the Ikeja and Maryland areas, on the way to the international airport, and in the Ikorodu suburb. A witness said two demonstrators were killed by gunfire in the crowded Mushin slum area Wednesday morning.

"Buses were being blocked by hooligans. Security forces opened fire and two people were killed instantly. The bodies are still there," the witness, a driver, told Reuters. The fatalities in Mushin were the first to be reported since soldiers in full combat gear joined armed police to help end pro-democracy protests in Nigeria's biggest city.

Protests against the military government's annulment of the June 12 presidential election, the first in a decade, started on Monday. President Ibrahim Babangida has ordered a fresh poll.

The protest organisers, Beko Ransome-Kuti, was arrested, his daughter told Reuters.

Public transport was running in the city centre and buses were

going to districts almost unapproachable for the past two days, residents said.

A Reuters correspondent who drove to the international airport, 25 kilometres away, before dawn said some barricades erected by youths had been dismantled.

It was too early to say whether a virtual siege of Lagos had been fully broken but many more workers appeared in streets near major banks and businesses than at any time since the weekend.

Lawyer Nike Ransome-Kuti said her father Beko, president of the Campaign for Democracy Pressure Group, was arrested just before midnight.

"No reason was given and no arrest warrant was produced," she said.

He had called for a week of protests against the military government's decision to abandon an election last month which would have given Nigeria its first civilian president for a decade.

One of the protesters, Tunji Thomas, "was away by up to 25 agents...a minor scuffle" at their home, Nike said.

The crisis which provoked the protests moved in a day of talks between the leaders of the two army-created parties which contested the poll.

Miyazawa's political base crumbles

TOKYO (R) — While Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa basked in the limelight of the Group of Seven (G-7) summit Wednesday, his political support was crumbling just before a general election on July 18.

New disclosures Wednesday suggested widespread bribery of officials by a number of the country's biggest construction firms and raised the prospect of a whole new set of scandals hitting the headlines.

"Miyazawa is playing the role of summit host to the hilt, but it's not going to do much to improve his image or that of the party with voters," said an exasperated official at the headquarters of the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"His public support rate is almost as bad as (then-premier) Takeshita's four years ago," he said, "and we all remember how badly we lost in elections back then."

Noboru Takeshita stepped down as prime minister and LDP

president in May 1989 with a record low support rating of three to six per cent after he and half his cabinet were implicated in the huge Recruit stock-peddling scam. Then finance minister, Mr. Miyazawa was the first to resign.

Two months later the LDP lost its majority in the upper house for the first time since the party's founding in 1955. Although it retained its lower house majority it has had to compromise with opposition parties in passing legislation through parliament.

Now it appears that Mr. Miyazawa, whose 20 month-old government has been hit by two new big pay-off scandals, is competing with Mr. Takeshita for the record as least popular leader.

Only 6.7 per cent of 2,300 respondents to the latest opinion poll said they backed Mr. Miyazawa's cabinet while 79 per cent did not. The conservative Sankai Shimbun daily, which published the poll Wednesday, said Mr. Miyazawa's support rate was fast approaching Mr.

Takeshita's as the lowest since polling began after World War II.

The governing party now appears headed for defeat in the upcoming election. Polls and pundits predict the LDP will go down to historic defeat, losing its lower house majority and being forced to seek a coalition partner.

Analysts said the LDP will be forced to make a coalition with one or more of the new parties if it wants to stay in power.

LDP dissidents, angry over Mr. Miyazawa's failure to push through anti-corruption and political reform laws, joined the opposition in forcing down the government on June 18 in a no-confidence vote and setting the stage for the election.

The LDP defectors then formed two new splinter parties that, along with the fast-rising Japan New Party (JNP), are expected to win the support of voters who have turned their backs on a ruling party widely regarded as corrupt.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Major sets new unpopularity record

LONDON (AFP) — Prime Minister John Major is now the most unpopular British premier ever, with only 14 per cent of voters believing he is doing a good job, according to an opinion poll for the Guardian newspaper Wednesday. Beleguered by a deep recession and a series of government pitfalls, Mr. Major is faring worse than any other British prime minister since polling began in 1938. The ICM poll showed Mr. Major was perceived as incompetent, and with "no clear idea of where he is leading the country." His popularity rating at just 14 per cent was well below Margaret Thatcher's lowest ever recording in her darkest hour of April 1990 when she scored just 23 per cent, and lower than 19 per cent scored in a MORI poll last week. Seven months after her lowest poll, Mrs. Thatcher was out of office. In an ICM comparison with a Time magazine poll showing the popularity of the other leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) major industrial nations, Mr. Major scored the lowest apart from Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who gained a paltry nine per cent. Top of the G7 league was Italian Premier Carlo Azeglio Ciampi with 60 per cent, followed by Francois Mitterrand of France at 46 per cent, and then jointly U.S. leader Bill Clinton and Germany's Helmut Kohl on 38 per cent. Canada's Kim Campbell came in at fifth place above Mr. Major.

Khmer Rouge capture border temple

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The radical Khmer Rouge captured Wednesday the world famous Preah Vihear Temple in the north of Cambodia on the border with Thailand, the co-president of the country's new interim government Hun Sen said. The temple came under attack around 5:00 a.m. Wednesday, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said. A group of about 20 former Phnom Penh government soldiers were stationed at the temple but withdrew when the guerrillas attacked. "We moved our forces away from the temple because we try to avoid attacking the Khmer Rouge because it would damage the temple," Mr. Hun Sen said. Local Thai police from Kantarak district, facing the 1,000-year-old temple, said the Khmer Rouge had seized the sanctuary. Thai border police, contacted by AFP Bangkok by telephone, said the fighting had not spilled into Thai territory.

Russia joins bid for Draskovic release

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia Wednesday joined an international campaign for the release of Serbian opposition leader Vuk Draskovic. A statement by President Boris Yeltsin's press secretary said Russia was "adding its voice to growing demands to release Draskovic, at least pending trial." Mr. Draskovic and his wife Danica were severely beaten by police on June 2 when they were arrested after leading a political demonstration during which a policeman was shot dead. They have been temporarily removed from prison for treatment in hospital where Draskovic began a hunger strike five days ago. The health of Mr. Draskovic is deteriorating and may become critical within the next 24 hours, doctors at the clinic said Wednesday. The physicians said that they were "taking precautionary measures to avoid critical complications expected in the next 24 hours."

Cuba foils 3rd bid on human smuggling

HAVANA (R) — Cuban security forces said Tuesday they had foiled a third brazen attempt in five days by U.S.-based Cuban exiles to smuggle would-be asylum seekers from the island to the United States. The Interior Ministry said in a statement three Cuban exiles were captured by Frontier Guards Sunday evening after their motor launch ran aground and sank near Santa Cruz Del Norte, some 50 kilometres east of Havana. The three detained men, who had left Cuba illegally over the last year, had been trying to pick up six Cubans who were also found and arrested when Cuban security forces carried out a sweep of the nearby coast. The Interior Ministry said its forces had foiled "one more human contraband deal."

Estonia rethinks law on foreigners

MOSCOW (AFP) — The Estonian parliament is to hold a special sitting this week to revise its controversial law on the status of foreigners, which Russia has attacked as a form of apartheid against the Baltic state's 600,000 Russian-speakers. President Lennart Meri, announcing the rethink in a statement received here Wednesday, said he would make a television broadcast on the subject in the evening. His decision followed an advisory opinion from the Council of Europe, which Estonia had requested, recommending revision because some sections of the law were incompatible with European legal norms. The law passed by parliament on June 21 stipulated that "noncitizens," as the Russians are called, would have two years in which to choose between Estonian nationality or simple resident status.

15 killed after Italian bus plunges

ROME (R) — At least 15 people were killed, 21 were injured and two were missing after a bus carrying Italian tourists plunged into a river in the Dolomite Mountains Tuesday, rescue coordinators said. Italy's Civil Protection Service said most of the victims were elderly. It said the accident happened when the bus collided with a car just south of the town of Brunico, in Italy's Alto Adige region near the border with Austria, and careered down an embankment into the fast-flowing River Gader. More than 150 firemen, police and other emergency workers were involved in the rescue operation. Helicopters were at the scene and five brigade divers had been sent to scour the river for bodies, civil protection officials said.

Vietnam's premier visits Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Vietnam's Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet arrived in Cuba in a visit to an old Communist friend after a tour of four capitalist European countries. Mr. Kiet, 70, number three in the ruling Vietnamese Communist Party's politburo, was personally greeted at Havana Airport by President Fidel Castro, head of Cuba's ruling Communist Party. He was due to stay four days on the Communist-ruled Caribbean island, hold talks with Mr. Castro and visit hospitals and economic projects.

Suspects in \$10m jewelry hold-up arrested

NICE, France (AFP) — Two men have been arrested in connection with a hold-up in which a rich American couple were robbed of \$10 million worth of jewellery on the French Riviera, police said here. Marvin Davis, a major shareholder in the Metro Goldwyn Mayer film corporation, and his wife Barbara were being driven along the road between Antibes and Juan-les-Pins Monday when their way was blocked by two other vehicles. Four armed men wearing masks jumped out and forced the occupants to open the doors of the limousine and overpowered the chauffeur. They opened the trunk and removed a case containing jewels worth 56 million francs (\$10 million) and \$50,000 in cash, according to the victims. Police believe the thieves, one of whom spoke English, must have been acting on a tip-off.

27 horses stolen from the Camargue found in Normandy

CAEN, France (AFP) — Twenty seven valuable white horses from the Camargue, out of over 150 reported stolen in the past nine months, have turned up in Normandy, police said Tuesday. The owner of the land where they were grazing in Lixieux has been arrested. Twenty three of the horses were marked and have been returned to their owners. Police believe the horses were drugged for the long journey from the Camargue plains on the south coast to Normandy in northeast France, where they were sold for a third of their true value with forged certificates of origin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jennings back in goal at Tottenham

LONDON (AFP) — Pat Jennings has become the latest former playing star to join the new-look Tottenham Hotspur. Jennings, who won 119 caps between the posts for Northern Ireland, was made the goalkeeping coach Wednesday by Spurs new manager and former White Hart Lane hero Ossie Ardiles. He joins former captain Steve Perryman, who has left Watford to become assistant manager, as club chairman Alan Sugar continues his clearout in the wake of Terry Venables' sacking. Sugar appeared at the training ground to welcome the new recruits and watch them work out. Doug Livermore, chief coach under the former manager, has been retained by Ardiles, but there was no room for Jennings' predecessor Ray Clemence, who was sacked after 12 years. Perryman said: "I'm thrilled to be back at the club after some years away learning my trade. To return to Tottenham, especially with Ossie, is great. I am looking forward to the challenge and I am sure he can make a success of the job."

Fiorentina want to keep Effenberg

FLORENCE, Italy (AFP) — Relegated Fiorentina are determined to drag Germany's Stefan Effenberg down into the Italian second division next season. Effenberg has sent pleading faxes to the Italian sports press, asking them to help him find a first division club that will keep his international career on the rails. But Fiorentina's new coach Claudio Ranieri says he needs the 25-year-old midfielder for the battle back to the top-flight. Ranieri says he understands Effenberg's concern. "I'm promising Effenberg that he will not be forgotten by the national coach for the World Cup," he said. However, Fiorentina's other foreign star, Brian Laudrup of Denmark, could be on the move to champions AC Milan. Laudrup might be released on loan as Milan appear to have dropped their interest in Napoli's Uruguayan striker Daniel Fonseca.

Africa's best to play in Durban

ABIDJAN (AFP) — Africa's top football club, Africa Sports of Abidjan, are to play a historic friendly against South African side Amazulu in Durban on Aug. 15. The winners of the match, the first between teams from the two countries, will lift a Unity Cup, officials from both clubs said here Wednesday. David Diamini, chairman of Amazulu, described the game as "the biggest sporting event for the oldest league club in South Africa." Africa Sports are holders of both the African Cup Winners' Cup and the African Super Cup.

Socrates to enter politics

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Former soccer star Socrates has joined the leftist Workers Party and is considering running for mayor of a small city, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The Jornal Do Brasil reported that Socrates, known for his outspoken political views in his days as a star for Corinthians and the Brazilian national team, signed with the party last Sunday. The paper said Socrates is considering a bid for mayor of the small interior city of Ribeirao Preto, where he began his career in the 1970s with the local Botafogo Club. The city's current mayor also belongs to the Workers Party. With Sao Paulo's Corinthians Club in the 1980s, Socrates became one of Brazil's top players. His trademark was a behind-the-back pass with his heel that bewildered opponents.

Sampras to play McEnroe on July 18

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras will play John McEnroe on July 18 in a special benefit exhibition preceding the Pathmark Tennis Classic. Sampras defeated Jim Courier in the Wimbledon final Sunday to retain his No. 1 world ranking. The 21-year-old Californian is only the second player to win the U.S. Open and Wimbledon before his 22nd birthday. McEnroe, a three-time Wimbledon champ, will donate his purse for the day to the children in the ABC Cities Tennis Programme of Arthur Ashe's Safe Passage Foundation. Ashe started the

Newark-based programme in 1990 to provide tennis and academic programmes to disadvantaged youngsters. The seven-day women's exhibition features Gabriela Sabatini, Jennifer Capriati, Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere and Mary Joe Fernandez.

Hungary win Women's Epee Team title

ESSEN, Germany (AFP) Hungary won their third straight Women's Team epee title, beating Germany 9-6 in the final at the World Fencing Championships here. The Hungarians have won the event four years out of five since its introduction. Ukraine took the bronze medal and Italy were fourth. The Hungarians were represented by Marina Varkonyi, Hajnalka Kiraly, Mariann Horvath and Gyongyi Szalay.

Lewis might run at Olympic Festival

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AFP) — Carl Lewis, the 100 metre world record-holder and three-time world champion, has a place reserved at the U.S. Olympic Festival. "He is understood to want to run in the 100 metres. A spot is being held for him," U.S. Olympic Committee spokeswoman Gayle Plant said. Lewis, a two-time Olympic champion in the 100m, owns the world mark of 9.86 sec. He is trying to improve his form for next month's World Championships in Germany, having finished third in the 100m at a meet in Villeneuve d'Ascq France, Friday. Other noted athletes scheduled to compete at the U.S. multi-sport event include Olympic 100m champion Gail Devers in the 100 metres hurdles plus heptathlon champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey. The festival runs from July 23 to Aug. 1.

Polish swimmer fails dope tests

WARSAW (AFP) — Polish Olympic swimmer Alicja Peczak, who reached the women's 200m breaststroke final in Barcelona, was failed a dope test. Peczak's sample from the Polish Grand Prix meeting at Oswiecim in early June contained traces of the male hormone testosterone, National Swimming Association (PZP) President Kazysztow Usielski told AFP Wednesday. The traces were confirmed in the second, or 'B' sample. Peczak, 23, who holds the Polish 100m and 200m breaststroke records, denies the doping charge. Usielski commented: "There are a lot of things in this affair which are difficult to explain: Alicja knew that there would be a dope test after the Oswiecim event and she didn't try to avoid it. 'People who knowingly use drugs wouldn't have done that.'" The PZP will discuss the case on July 24.

Kankkunen's co-driver hospitalised

CORDOBA, Argentina (AFP) — Juha Piironen, the co-driver of Toyota's former world champion Juha Kankkunen, was rushed to hospital here after suffering a brain haemorrhage. Piironen, who had been practising for the world championship Rally Argentina, was found collapsed in his hospital room Monday and operated on straight away. A team spokesman said the operation appeared to have been successful and that the Finn was as well as could be expected. The rally starts on July 14.

Maradona might come back

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Diego Maradona, who announced two weeks ago that he was giving up football for good, is having second thoughts. The Argentine was sacked by Spanish club Sevilla last week after a dismal comeback season, following a 15-month ban for cocaine. Maradona, once the world's greatest footballer, returned here saying it was all over. But he told a radio interviewer Tuesday that he was now being tempted back. "It's really hard for me to say goodbye to football," he said. "But I don't know if I could stand the pressure and it would be very difficult to handle the pace." Maradona said he had been contacted by Prospero Consoli, who was president of Argentinos Juniors when the star made his debut for the first division club at the age of 15. He did not give details, saying only that Consoli wanted him to return to his old team.

Iranian win sets diplomatic poser for FIFA

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Iran completed the setting of a diplomatic minefield for World Cup organisers after they won their Asian qualifying group.

A 1-1 draw in Damascus with hosts Syria was enough to give Iran the top spot in Asia's qualifying Group B — and a place in the last stage of the continent's battle to reach next year's finals in America.

The International Football Federation, FIFA, could not have chosen six more difficult teams to put in competition for Asia's two places.

Iran will take on Iraq, until five years ago their sworn enemies. Also in the group are Saudi Arabia, who led the Arab coalition against Iraq in the Gulf war. FIFA's problems will be completed by the presence of North and South Korea.

Japan are the only side not to pose a political quandary. But the Japanese have their own reasons for being quietly successful in this potentially explosive second round tournament. They want to be the first Asian country to host the World Cup finals in 2002.

The world body has spent weeks trying to find a neutral country to stage the Asian tournament. After much discussion, FIFA announced Tuesday that it should be held in Qatar, probably in late October.

The draw for this six-team event, with the top two qualifying for the finals, will be made in Zurich on July 15.

Iraq has already declared its intent on winning one of the places as a way of redeeming national honour after the Gulf war.

"Your mission is part of the confrontation between Iraq and the 'Forces of Evil' as embodied by the United States and their allies," the army newspaper Al Qadisiya told the team recently.

FIFA was also warned of the protocol problems ahead by Iraqi Television. "For the others, football maybe a game, for us it is a battle," went a song played by government broadcasters after Iraq's 1-0 victory over China in their qualifying tournament in May.

That battle cost nine lives and left 120 others wounded by celebration gunfire in Baghdad after the win, according to Iraqi press reports.

Oman beat Taiwan 7-1 Tuesday in their last game of the Asia Group B qualification tournament.

Half-time was 3-0. Oman's Yusef Saleh opened the score in the 7th minute followed by Tayeb Abdel Nour in the 14th minute. Rashid Abdullah scored twice in the 40th and 80th minutes.

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Fans wearing traditional outfits applaud cyclists during the third stage of the Tour de France (AFP photo)

Cipollini takes over Tour de France lead

AVRANCHES, France (AP) — Italy's Mario Cipollini took over the lead in the Tour de France Wednesday as his GB-MB squad won the fourth-stage team time trial.

Cipollini moved into a six-second lead over Belgium's Wilfried Nelissen, who had held the leader's yellow jersey for the past two days.

GB-MG won the 81-kilometre time trial in 1 hour, 34 minutes, 10 seconds. Once was next, five seconds behind, and the American Motorola team was third, 16 seconds.

Miguel Indurain paced his Banesto team to seventh place, losing only a handful of seconds

to Cipollini. Indurain gained time on another contender, Gianni Bugno, whose Gatorade team trailed Banesto by 12 seconds.

The tour ends on July 25 in Paris after covering a 3,720-kilometre (2,312-mile) route around France.

On Tuesday, Djamelidine Abdoujaparov took his turn to claim the honours in the third successive mass sprint finish as the Tour de France began to take on a deja vu look.

The world's three fastest men on bikes, Uzbek Abdoujaparov, Cipollini and Nelissen, have been testing for victory in all the main sprints so far in the flat stages in western France.

Abdoujaparov grabbed victory

in Tuesday's third stage over 189.5 kms from Vannes to follow Cipollini, who won the first stage Sunday, and Nelissen, who claimed the second Monday.

Nelissen and Cipollini followed Abdoujaparov home to put the same three riders on the victory podium for a second successive day.

The Belgian retained his race leader's yellow jersey with Cipollini moving up to second 25 seconds behind the Abdoujaparov third, 28 seconds down.

Defending champion Miguel Indurain of Spain, who finished in the peloton, dropped from second to fourth overall and is 29 seconds behind Nelissen.

Masur stumbles in Switzerland

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AFP) — Australia's Wally Masur crashed out of the Swiss Open second round Wednesday, but the defeat to French qualifier Gerard Szeles failed to dent his Davis Cup hopes.

The 30-year-old fourth seed was bounced out of the second, high-altitude event 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 by Szeles, the son of a railway worker playing his first year in top level tennis.

Masur, ranked 21st in the world, took charge of the first set but let his grip slip as the 239th-ranked challenger came back.

The Australian was broken in the fourth game of the second set for 1-3. Masur saved two points in the ninth game with forehand winners, but Szeles still powered through to even the match.

The Frenchman, who wore sun-glasses throughout the tie, and the Aussie traded breaks in the fourth and fifth games of the deciding set. Szeles gave Masur no leeway in the tie-break, racing home 7-1.

Masur said the match had developed late.

"At the start, no one was getting the balls in, but by the

end, he was really going for his shots. I would have liked to get through a few more matches this week, but that's the way it goes."

Masur, still alive in doubles this week on the fast clay, is already getting prepared for Australia's quarterfinal cup tie against a depleted but dangerous Italian team in Florence on July 16-18.

Despite being picked for the squad this week by captain Neale Fraser, Masur is not taking the decision to mean that he has a rock-solid place in the line-up.

"The only given thing is that Richard (Fromberg) will play singles," said Masur. "The second singles must still be played for."

Masur or Jason Stoltenberg are

tipped for that slot, with Wimbledon doubles champion Mark Woodforde an outside contender. Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge will contest the doubles less than two weeks after taking their Wimbledon title.

"The heat of the summer will probably be more of a factor than the surface," he said, dismissing worries that the rowdy Italian fans expected to pack the stands will be an advantage for the hosts.

"I've been hit by Coke cans and coins in Latin America. I don't think it can be worse than that," he said.

guys are not too volatile, they know how to react under pressure."

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM MISHCH
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PICK THE FINESSE

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K 6 2
♥ 7 2
♦ K J 8 8
♣ A Q 9 6

WEST
♠ J 9 8 7
♥ 9 5 4
♦ Q 6 5 2
♣ 7 4

EAST
♠ 10 5 4
♥ K J 10 8 6
♦ A 4
♣ K 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 3
♥ A Q 3
♦ 10 7 3
♣ J 10 8 5

The bidding:
East South West North
1 ♣ Pass Pass Dbl
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣
When you have nothing else to bid you, all finesses are equal — any given finesse has a 50 percent chance of success. However, that does not mean that it makes no difference which finesse you take when a choice is available.

North's double was slightly flawed, but in the balancing seat, rarely will you hold a perfect hand and no better bid was available. With 13 high-card points and ten-

aces behind the opening bidder, South's jump to three no trump was a reasonable shot.

West led a low heart and declarer captured East's technically correct play of the ten with the queen. Since East was marked with the ace of diamonds, declarer needed a winning finesse in either minor suit to bring home nine tricks. It was just possible for West to have either the queen of diamonds or king of clubs. Put yourself in the declarer's chair and decide which is correct to try.

When this hand was played, South elected to finesse West for the queen of diamonds first. When that succeeded, declarer had nine tricks — three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and the ace of clubs. Just lucky or well reasoned?

Suppose declarer ran the jack of clubs at trick two and it lost. East would force out declarer's remaining heart stopper, and the defense would come to three heart tricks and one in each minor before declarer could take advantage of a favorable lie in diamonds. But if the diamond finesse fails, a successful club finesse brings in four tricks in that suit and nine tricks in total. Taking the diamond finesse first gives declarer two bites at the cherry.

Elysees to accept the blame for the affair.

Mr. Noel then took Mr. Primorac to meet Mr. Tapie in his offices nearby where the offer was repeated, the lawyer said.

Mr. Bertrand said Mr. Primorac told his story to Judge Befly and went with the judge Tuesday to confront Mr. Tapie.

Mr. Primorac was the Valenciennes trainer on May 20 when they lost 1-0 at home to Marseille. Before the match he was told by defender Jacques Glassmann that Marseille had offered him and two other players bribes to throw the game. Mr. Primorac informed his club's directors.

The two other players involved, Argentine Jorge Buruchaga and Christophe Robert have both admitted accepting bribes though they said they later changed their minds.

They and Robert's wife Marie-Christine have been placed under investigation as have Marseille midfielder Jean-Jacques Eydelie and Marseille General Secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes.

Eydelie and Bernes, alleged by the Valenciennes players to have been their contact men, have denied involvement and have been remanded in custody.

The prosecutor in the case, Eric De Montgolfier, said in a radio interview Wednesday that Mr. Tapie was under suspicion.

Asked if Mr. Tapie was a suspect, Mr. De Montgolfier replied: "That there should be suspicions, yes, that's clear. Let's not speak hypocritically."

But he added that it was too early to judge whether the millionaire businessman and former government minister was guilty.

"I am not a position to say that from the evidence in the dossier at the moment," he said.

The prosecutor said Mr. Tapie had spoken out frequently about the case. "Is he acting to protect

his club or is it that he wants certain things that he knows not to come out?" he asked.

French League President Noel Le Graet met Mr. De Montgolfier and Judge Befly to discuss the affair Wednesday morning.

Mr. Le Graet said the Buruchaga and Robert would probably be banned from the sport.

"Jorge Buruchaga and Christophe Robert are two players who will have difficulty in getting another licence in French football," he said.

"We want these practices to disappear for ever from football," he said.

The weekly Le Sport Wednesday published an interview with the referee of the Valenciennes-Marseille match, Jean-Marie Veniel, in which he said he found the home team, threatened with relegation, strangely passive.

Robert left the field after 20 minutes with a knee injury following a tackle by Marseille defender Eric Di Meco. "The tackle by Di Meco could not, in my opinion, have injured Robert's knee," he said.

Mr. Veniel said Valenciennes directors came to see him at halftime to protest that some of their players had been offered bribes by Marseille.

He said Mr. Tapie and Valenciennes Chairman Michel Coencas both went to see him later. He said Mr. Tapie had asked Mr. Coencas: "Look me in the white of the eyes and tell me which of the two of us tried to arrange a draw, you or me?"

Mr. Veniel said Mr. Coencas lowered his head and left the room.

Mr. Coencas denied any attempt at match-rigging by Valenciennes in a radio interview Wednesday. "At no time did I ever try to arrange the match," he said.

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Torture widespread in Middle East — Amnesty

LONDON (Agencies) — Most Middle East countries systematically torture detainees, using various methods such as beatings, cigarette burns or electric shocks, Amnesty International said Thursday.

In its report for 1992, the human rights group said thousands of people were detained without charge or trial in virtually every country in the region, many held under emergency laws.

It said the struggle against Islamic fundamentalism in 1992 led to worsening human rights in several countries, such as Algeria and Egypt.

"Torture, unfair trials, political killings, 'disappearances' and other serious human rights violations were committed by government agents throughout the Middle East during 1992," the London-based human rights organisation said.

In Egypt, new legislation giving additional powers of arrest "facilitated the torture of political detainees," while eight alleged members of an armed Islamic group were sentenced to death by a military court after "unfair trials."

In Algeria, over 10,000 people were detained without charge or trial in desert camps. The declaration of a state of emergency in February 1992 caused a "dramatic"

increase in the use of torture, which had previously been "greatly reduced," Amnesty said.

The organisation also condemned Islamic opposition groups in Algeria, Egypt and the Israeli-occupied territories, accusing them of serious human rights violations, including the killing of civilians.

Every country in the region was mentioned in the report, which condemned the widespread use of the death penalty, particularly in Iran where 330 people were sentenced to death in 1992.

Kidnapping and "disappearances" are still very common in the region, Amnesty said. The detention of political prisoners without trial is widespread in Syria, but Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Tunisia are also guilty.

Amnesty noted that the Iraqi regime continued to violently suppress all forms of opposition and that government ground attacks on the Shi'ite Muslims in the south has increased since the creation of a United Nations air exclusion zone which was designed to protect them.

Torture was widespread in several states and the death penalty, which Amnesty opposes, was retained in every country in the region — and used extensively.

"Six executions took place in Libya, the first since 1987, 66 people were publicly beheaded in Saudi Arabia and hundreds remained on death row in Yemen at the end of the year."

Other Islamic punishments used included amputations of the right hand for theft in Saudi Arabia and routine floggings in Iran.

In Iraq, detainees "disappeared" and an unknown number of people living in the southern marshes region were killed.

"New information emerged about some 100,000 Kurds, most of whom 'disappeared' from Iraqi government custody in 1988, including the discovery of mass graves," the report added.

Amnesty said information also came to light about the torture in 1991 of Iraqi refugees in Saudi Arabia, where Amnesty was also concerned by arrests of Christians and Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims for peaceful expression of their beliefs.

At least 150 political prisoners also received unfair trials in Kuwait, mostly for "collaboration with the enemy," it said.

Amnesty criticised Israel's detention of hundreds of Palestinians without charge and deportation of some 400 others to Southern Lebanon.



ADVANCE UNIT: U.N. soldiers from the advanced unit of the U.S. Rangers Berlin brigade set razor wire around their camp at Skopje-Petrovec airport Wednesday. Three hundred U.S. soldiers are expected here under the U.N. flag to prevent war in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia (AFP photo)

17-year-old suspect held in Dibbin murder

AMMAN (I.T.) — A 17-year-old boy has been arrested as the prime suspect in the murder of a 28-year-old Egyptian in what the suspect asserts was manslaughter while resisting a sexual attack. Irbid police announced Wednesday.

A police statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, identified the suspect only as M.G.A. who used to get out with the deceased on hunting trips in Dibbin, a northern wooded area.

The statement said the case was first reported when police were called in following the discovery of the lower part of a man's body in a shed in the Dibbin area last month.

The identity of the man established, but the missing upper part of the body led the coroner to initially conclude that the man was devoured by an animal, possibly a hyena. But closer examinations and an

autopsy established that the man was killed by a hunting gun.

The police statement said that intense investigations, which included close surveillance of several people who were reportedly close to the deceased, had led to the arrest of the youth.

Upon interrogation, the youth confessed to have committed the murder with his hunting rifle when the victim tried to sexually attack him, the statement said.

It quoted the suspect as saying that after the killing he cut the body into two and buried the upper part in a bid to conceal traces of the crime.

The statement did not give more details except that the suspect and the victim used to hunt together. It also thanked the local residents for their cooperation which led to the arrest of the suspect.

Sudanese minister pays fence-mending Qatar visit

DOHA (Agencies) — Sudan Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh discussed bilateral cooperation with Qatar on Tuesday in the latest rapprochement between the Gulf and the Arabs who backed Iraq during the Gulf crisis sparked by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Since the Gulf crisis, Sudan, along with Yemen, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have been ostracised by the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The first Sudanese senior official to visit a Gulf country since the crisis began three years ago, Mr. Abu Saleh talked with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasim Al Thani on bilateral ties and issues of common interest, the Qatar News Agency reported.

Yemen's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saleh Bassindawh concluded a visit to Bahrain late Monday. He delivered a message from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa.

Mr. Bassindawh is member of the first cabinet of ministers to be formed following April 27 parliamentary elections. That government has made it a priority to mend bridges with the Gulf countries, its neighbours on the Arabian Peninsula.

Oman's foreign affairs minister, Yusuf Ben Alawi, was to visit Mr. Bassindawh in San'a later, after the Omani finished a visit to Egypt.

The six-member Gulf Cooperation Council groups Bahrain with Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, in addition to Saudi Arabia.

Oman was the more forthcoming among these states, and reached agreement for demarcation of common borders with Yemen within months of the Gulf war which ended the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Mr. Abu Saleh, the Sudanese minister, called Wednesday for better relations with Gulf Arab states, saying it could not do without such ties.

Mr. Abu Saleh told a news conference in Qatar "his country cannot do without its relations with sisterly (Gulf Arab) states," the Qatar News Agency reported.

Mr. Abu Saleh "expressed hope for the restoration of ties" with GCC.

Aideed's arrest imminent, U.S. legislators report

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — The arrest of Somalia's main warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed is imminent, three representatives from the U.S. Congress said Wednesday during a visit to see the U.N. operation in Somalia, UNOSOM II.

The delegation, including the chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Subcommittee, Florida Democrat Harry Johnston, declared that the arrest was "imminent" after meeting the UNOSOM II commander, Turkish General Cevan Bir.

The team refused to give details.

Gen. Aideed had been declared a wanted man since his armed supporters killed 24 Pakistani U.N. troops in clashes on June 5.

Earlier Wednesday, Italian commander General Bruno Loi said that Gen. Aideed had been seen the day before close to the October 21 former stadium where his supporters frequently meet.

The United Nations was offered a reward of an undisclosed amount for information leading to his arrest.

The meeting here was also attended by New Jersey Democrat Donald Payne, Florida Democrat Alcee Hastings, and Gen. Bir's deputy General Thomas Montgomery.

The three American politicians told soldiers on the U.N. logistics support command that the U.S. involvement should continue in the Horn of Africa country, where clan warfare has killed hundreds of thousands of people.

"It would be a very serious mistake for the United States not to continue to support the operation," the delegation said.

"We lost many men and women here. We have spent a lot of money. A premature pullout at this stage would be irresponsible and would turn the country back over to the

warlords," he added.

Gunmen shot dead two Somalis working for the United Nations force in Mogadishu Wednesday in the first attack of its kind.

In a separate incident overnight, two U.S. soldiers were wounded when a rocket-propelled grenade was fired at their guard post, U.N. spokesman Barrie Walkley said.

One of the wounded was treated and released but the other remained in hospital.

Mr. Walkley said there were reports the two slain Somali men had been shot execution-style. Three of their colleagues had been abducted and a fourth was missing, he said.

All worked for Maanta, the U.N. newspaper in Somalia which is widely criticised by Somalis as being biased against them.

"There are some reports that the two who were killed were killed, execution-style because they work for UNOSOM," Mr. Walkley told reporters.

Mr. Walkley said the Somalis had just finished delivering copies of the newspaper, which has a circulation of 20,000, when they were attacked. It was the first fatal attack on Somalis employed by UNOSOM since the U.N. military intervention in the country.

On Tuesday more than 500 U.S. soldiers swept through Mogadishu buildings looking for weapons caches.

The troops, backed by a Cobra helicopter and armoured cars, seized rifles and a machinegun, a military spokesman said.

The search was the biggest of a series in recent weeks and followed warnings from the U.N. that it intends to forcibly disarm Gen. Aideed's supporters.

Gen. Aideed's followers killed three Italian U.N. troops and two Pakistani "Blue Helmets," in ambushes last week as they looked for concealed arms.

Israeli settlement down — study

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Prices and demand for houses in most occupied West Bank Jewish settlements have dropped since the Labour government took power vowing to cede some of that territory, according to a new real estate survey.

However, Gemolab, a leading Israeli real estate assessment firm, said Wednesday that sales were up in satellite settlements of Jerusalem supported by the government, which came to power a year ago.

"Since the new government was formed, there is a drop in the sales of new and used apartments in settlements over the green line," the study said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government has been gradually phasing out financial incentives such as mortgage grants for Jews settling in most of the occupied West Bank.

"Because there are fewer benefits, fewer people are coming to the territories and the prices are going down," said settlers' spokesman Shai Bazak. "The statistics are not surprising."

The government has maintained benefits for settlements near Jerusalem and in Gaza where only a few thousand of the 100,000 settlers live.

Many Jews settled in the occupied territories because of "nationalistic" ideology but many were drawn by the promise of cheaper, bigger houses than in Israeli cities.

Yet Gemolab said housing prices had dropped at least 20 per cent in West Bank settlements surveyed.

In two settlements cited, housing sales dropped 60 to 90 per cent in the past two years.

But in Maale Adumim, the largest settlement in the occupied territories and the main Jerusalem satellite, prices rose in the first half of the year.

altering or clarifying the rules of the game, depending on the two conflicting perspectives of the Palestinians and the Israelis.

In the first proposal, the U.S. implicitly stated that the aim of the negotiations was not the implementation of Resolution 242 even though the negotiations have been based on it. "The two sides concur that the agreement reached between them on permanent status will constitute the implementation of 242 and 338," thus rendering void the original wording of 242. The latter resolution calls for the implementation of 242 through negotiations.

The second U.S. document, floated at the end of the 10th round, proved to be more explosive: The Palestinians charged that it violated the principle of "land for peace," upon which the talks were initially based.

Two approaches

The new document lays new ground for the talks that are not based on the U.N. resolutions, effectively stripping the Palestinians of one of the few cards they have long invoked to redress the disparity of the situation.

U.S. officials admit that the

second U.S. draft reflects a new approach to prevent the process from reaching a dead end.

"There are two approaches to the process. The first, favoured by Arabs, is to invoke international law," a U.S. official told the Monitor. "But international law, as we know, is meaningless unless there are powers who are ready to enforce it," the official says, referring to U.S. resistance to economic sanctions against Israel or enforcement of U.N. resolutions.

The second approach, which the official says is endorsed by the Israelis, is "to set aside international law and to find a workable formula." That appears to be the option preferred by the Clinton administration.

Israeli officials say the Palestinians should engage in building on what the Israelis are offering instead of wasting time on appealing to international law.

But the Palestinians say they are being asked to make concessions at the talks in return for an ambiguous and uncertain outcome.

"What do the Palestinians want?" the U.S. official asks. "If they want to see Israeli soldiers go home, they have to be realistic and do what they are given."

NEWS IN BRIEF

1,000 Iraqis said seeking refuge in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Around 1,000 Iraqis fleeing attacks by government troops on the southern marshlands have massed at the Iranian border seeking refuge in Iran, a key Iraqi opposition group said Tuesday. "Some 200 families, representing 1,000 people, have been forced to flee the recent attacks of the Iraqi army" on marshlands, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement to AFP. "They are currently at the Hemmat border post in southwestern Iran and want refuge in Iran," the statement said. According to SAIRI, hundreds of other Muslim Shiites have fled to the Iranian border in recent days.

Court puts Touvier under supervision

VERSAILLES (AFP) — A Versailles court ruled Wednesday that alleged war criminal Paul Touvier must be put under police supervision before he stands trial on crimes against humanity, court sources said. Touvier, the 78-year-old wartime militia chief in Lyons, will have to report to police every two weeks and is banned from leaving the Paris region, they added. He must also hand in his national identity paper. Until now, Touvier was required only to report to police the day before his trial.

Dinkins wants U.S. embassy in Jerusalem

TEL AVIV (AP) — Mayor David Dinkins of New York, supporting Israel on a sensitive political issue, said Wednesday he hoped the United States would move its embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. "The question of Jerusalem is not negotiable to Israel, and I agree with that judgment," Mr. Dinkins told reporters after meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "I wish they would move the embassy." The vast majority of embassies in Israel are in Tel Aviv, as most countries do not recognise Israel's claim to Jerusalem as its capital or its annexation of East Jerusalem. His statement comes at a time when the issue of Jerusalem is a key obstacle to progress in U.S.-sponsored Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. "We are making a supreme effort to explain to the Palestinians that Jerusalem would be left alone," Mr. Peres said after the meeting with Mr. Dinkins. "I don't know of any important Israeli political force ready to negotiate on Jerusalem." Mr. Peres nonetheless repeated offers regarding the city that went beyond those of Israel's previous hawkish Likud government, saying that Jerusalem's 150,000 Arabs should be permitted to vote in elections under Palestinian autonomy.

Kashmir militants invited to elections

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The governor of the troubled Indian state of Kashmir, K.V. Krishna Rao, has invited militants to participate in elections to be held "as early as possible," the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Wednesday. The retired general said the elections would be "absolutely free and fair and whichever party was returned to power would be allowed to function as its full term." Militant groups have been at war against federal authority for the past four years. While some groups have demanded independence from India, others have asked for accession to neighbouring Pakistan. The last elections held in Kashmir were in 1987 and were marred by widespread allegations of irregularities. The state has been under federal rule since 1990.

Pulitzer prize-winning journalist dies

NEW YORK (AFP) — Harrison Salisbury, the Pulitzer prize-winning New York Times editor and reporter who wrote from the former Soviet Union and Asia, has died. He was 84. Salisbury died in Providence, Rhode Island, on Monday of natural causes, said his stepdaughter, Rosina Rossie. The Minnesota native covered the former Soviet Union and Asia during a career that spanned six decades, and wrote books about both. Salisbury was honoured with a Pulitzer for international reporting in 1955.

Toxic leakage causes hazard in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Drums of highly toxic and explosive chemicals stored in Karachi for more than a decade are leaking into the air and ground, a Pakistani environmental expert has warned. Pervaz Naem of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature said that more than 45 drums of meta-dinitro benzene were leaking fumes into the air and the chemical had already seeped into the ground. "Inhalation of its fumes can be fatal within 12 hours," Mr. Naem said. The chemical causes liver damage and affects red blood cells. Two people died and ten were seriously affected in May after inhaling fumes from large amounts of the same chemical dumped in a drain in the city. Stray dogs living in the area have died or suffered serious damage to their legs after coming into contact with the chemical, taken from an abandoned ship more than 10 years ago.

S. Arabia eases visa regulations

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Arabia simplified visa regulations for foreign businessmen to ease economic dealings with the kingdom, a Saudi-owned newspaper said Wednesday. The daily Asharq Al Awsat said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal had instructed Saudi embassies to issue visas for foreign businessmen backed by Saudi firms or businessmen without having to refer requests back to Riyadh. "Saudi businessmen and firms can now send their requests for visas directly to Saudi consulates in some countries," the paper, quoting high-level sources, said. The move will cut red tape and long waiting periods for business travellers, it said.

France jails 4 Turks for guerrilla links

PARIS (R) — A Paris court convicted four Turks of criminal association with a left-wing guerrilla group Tuesday, sentencing them to four years each in jail. The men, members of the extremist Turkish TKPML group, were arrested in the northeastern Paris suburbs last month. Police seized five machine pistols, detonators and some 120,000 francs (\$25,000) in various currencies. They were named as Abdul Baki Mukyen, 30, Yasar Inancil, 25, Garabet Demirci, 34 and Kasim Tat, 28. Last month, French police arrested three suspected members of another extreme leftist Turkish group, Devsol, after a shoot-out in central Paris in which one man was killed. A French judge said then that Devsol, TKPML and the Kurdish PKP party were actively recruiting among Turks in Paris. Police suspect all three groups of racketeering and drugs dealings to finance their anti-government activities.

Swiss protest to Ankara over shooting

BERN (AP) — Switzerland protested to Turkey Wednesday over the "unacceptable" shooting of a Kurdish protester outside the Turkish embassy in Bern last month. In a diplomatic note to Ankara, the Swiss government said it "could not tolerate that random gunshots are fired from a foreign embassy at people, even if they were taking part in an unauthorised demonstration," a foreign ministry statement said. The protest voiced indignation that Turkey failed to cooperate with a probe of the incident. Turkey has withdrawn three more embassy staffers — a guard, a chauffeur and an administrative assistant — in the wake of the shooting. Swiss foreign ministry spokesman Franz Egli said Wednesday. No reasons were given. Ankara earlier called home four embassy guards Swiss authorities suspected of firing at Kurdish militants outside the embassy on June 24, killing one and wounding nine.

Iran bans Turkish writer's works

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has banned the works of Turkish author Aziz Nesin whose translation of "The Satanic Verses" led to a fundamentalist backlash in Turkey which killed 36 people. "Publication and distribution of Nesin's entire works in Turkish have been declared illegal in Iran," Culture Ministry official Ahmad Masjed Jamei told Jomhuri Islamic newspaper Wednesday. He said the writings of the 78-year-old author were "contrary to the Islamic values, Iranian revolution and national unity." "None of his works have been allowed to be published since the beginning of the current year," he said, not clarifying if they included translations in Farsi.

COLUMN

Kohl upset by wait for Miyazawa

TOKYO (R) — A three-minute wait for an appointment with his host turned German Chancellor Helmut Kohl from his usual jolly self into a grumpy and impatient guest. "Why do we have to wait?" Mr. Kohl growled at his aides when he heard Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa was not ready to meet him for their meeting Wednesday, the opening day of the Group of Seven summit of wealthy nations. "Where is he anyway?" Asked to take a seat, Mr. Kohl eased his bulky frame into a chair obviously made for the slimmer Japanese and sulked until Mr. Miyazawa appeared about three minutes late. "He was probably more annoyed at having to squeeze into that chair than to wait for Miyazawa," one German official remarked. Mr. Kohl appeared to enjoy himself more Tuesday evening when he took a stroll through the posh Ginza district and found a restaurant serving his favourite food — spaghetti.

Major accepts damages in libel suit

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major and careerist Clare Latimer each accepted £1,001 (\$1,508) in libel damages Tuesday from a magazine which they claimed suggested they had an affair. The left-leaning weekly New Statesman And Society said Mr. Major informed the High Court of his intention to accept the sum which the magazine paid into court. Mr. Major 50, and Ms. Latimer 41, brought separate libel actions over the article which appeared on Jan. 29. "Both John Major and Clare Latimer have accepted a payment into court without an admission of liability. The action is therefore at an end," Geoffrey Bindman, the magazine's lawyer told the Guardian newspaper. The New Statesman And Society has always claimed that the article was misinterpreted and was about rumour-mongering rather than about any alleged affair. "We're delighted to have settled the case," said editor Steve Platt. "The damages paid are clearly very small, token damages. We think we have been completely vindicated in our view that the article was not defamatory." It is believed to be the first libel action by a serving prime minister since Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson sued a pop group over a record promotion in 1967.

Gates at Hyde Park to honour Queen Mother

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II has unveiled ornate steel gates built by public donations at the entrance of Hyde Park to honour her mother, Queen Mother Elizabeth. The 93-year-old widow of King George VI strolled through the gates, minus the walking stick she has been using while recovering from surgery in May. The opening ceremony was not without a hitch — huge pink drapes which covered the 120-foot (37-metre) wide gates became snared in the elaborate metalwork. They ripped as they were lifted off by crane in a shower of 93,000 rose petals. The queen mother's nephew, Prince Michael, launched a fundraising drive to build the £2 million (\$3.5 million) gates in 1991. "This was a chance for the man in the street to show his appreciation to you for a long lifetime in the service of the community and the response has been as spontaneous as I had expected," the prince said at the opening ceremony. "In generosity of heart, no commitment over the years can match yours for the example you have set and the affection that you inspire in each one of us, we thank you."

Clinton talks to parents of slain Japanese youth

TOKYO (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton spoke Wednesday to the parents of a Japanese schoolboy whose shooting death in the United States last October generated widespread anger in Japan. Mr. Clinton spoke for 10 minutes on the telephone to Masachi and Mieko Hattori, whose son Yoshihiro, 16, was killed after approaching a home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana looking for a Halloween costume party. House owner Rodney Peairs shot him dead after he failed to respond to the warning "freeze." A Grand Jury later acquitted Mr. Peairs of manslaughter. Mr. Clinton, in Tokyo for the rich nations' summit, "expressed his condolences on what happened," said presidential assistant George Stephanopoulos.

U.S. envoy to try to salvage Mideast peace talks

By Dennis M. Pritchard
The Christian Science Monitor

THE AMERICAN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, Dennis Ross, heads to the region July 8 in what appears to be a last-ditch effort to nudge the Israelis and Arabs to accept a United States proposal to salvage the Israeli-Arab peace talks.

Mr. Ross's mission follows the breakdown of the last round of talks over interim Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Judging by reactions in Israel and Palestinians to the president's most recent proposal, U.S. intervention, which was originally initiated to push the process forward, could potentially undermine the talks.

But while the Israeli government opposes any modification to an initial U.S. proposal of May 12, the Palestinians view that document, and a revised version presented June 30, as a "roadmap" to American endorsement of their interests.

"It was hard enough to negotiate with the Israelis. Now we are practically negotiating with two parties," says one Palestinian delegate.

plans, particularly spokeswoman Ronan Ashrawi, who had been publicly and privately pressing the U.S. to take a more active and direct role in the process. The Palestinians had thought the U.S. would pressure Israel to abide by United Nations Security Council resolutions that formed the basis for the peace talks.

U.N. Resolution 242 calls for a negotiated settlement based on exchanging land for peace. Former Secretary of State James Baker III, before launching the historic Middle East peace conference in Madrid in October 1991, sent letters to the four parties assuring them that their interests would be adequately represented.

Shifting stance

The Clinton administration supported those assurances and Secretary of State Warren Christopher vowed that the U.S. would become "a full partner" in the process. The Palestinians welcomed that pledge, but were soon disappointed.

When the ninth round of talks got underway April 27, U.S. officials made clear that the Palestinians would have to work out the terms of the negotiations with the

Israelis and should not expect Washington to apply pressure on Israel.

"Our role is that of facilitators and not arbitrators or enforcers," one well-placed State Department official explains.

Washington has long maintained that the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, should not expect it to step up any kind of pressure to force Israel to withdraw from territories it has occupied since 1967. U.S. officials have also said that they would not sanction unilateral or international measures to address Israeli treatment of the Palestinians.

At the outset of the 10th round last month, U.S. officials told the Palestinians that Secretary Baker's letters of assurance were not enforceable.

"They told us that the letters of assurance did not constitute the terms of reference for the peace process, that the letter of invitation was the only terms of reference," Dr. Ashrawi told journalists at a briefing in Washington.

The letter of invitation, written by both Washington and Moscow following Baker's initiative, were sent just before the Madrid talks opened.

The two U.S. proposals also were instrumental in further

altering or clarifying the rules of the game, depending on the two conflicting perspectives of the Palestinians and the Israelis.

In the first proposal, the U.S. implicitly stated that the aim of the negotiations was not the implementation of Resolution 242 even though the negotiations have been based on it. "The two sides concur that the agreement reached between them on permanent status will constitute the implementation of 242 and 338," thus rendering void the original wording of 242. The latter resolution calls for the implementation of 242 through negotiations.

The second U.S. document, floated at the end of the 10th round, proved to be more explosive: The Palestinians charged that it violated the principle of "land for peace," upon which the talks were initially based.

Two approaches

The new document lays new ground for the talks that are not based on the U.N. resolutions, effectively stripping the Palestinians of one of the few cards they have long invoked to redress the disparity of the situation.

U.S. officials admit that the

second U.S. draft reflects a new approach to prevent the process from reaching a dead end.

"There are two approaches to the process. The first, favoured by Arabs, is to invoke international law," a U.S. official told the Monitor. "But international law, as we know, is meaningless unless there are powers who are ready to enforce it," the official says, referring to U.S. resistance to economic sanctions against Israel or enforcement of U.N. resolutions.

The second approach, which the official says is endorsed by the Israelis, is "to set aside international law and to find a workable formula." That appears to be the option preferred by the Clinton administration.

Israeli officials say the Palestinians should engage in building on what the Israelis are offering instead of wasting time on appealing to international law.

But the Palestinians say they are being asked to make concessions at the talks in return for an ambiguous and uncertain outcome.

"What do the Palestinians want?" the U.S. official asks. "If they want to see Israeli soldiers go home, they have to be realistic and do what they are given."

U.S. officials admit that the